

Iraq replies to Egyptian message

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mustapha Kamel Sa'ad said Tuesday on return from a visit to Baghdad that he brought a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to President Hosni Mubarak. The minister told reporters the message replied to one which Mr. Mubarak sent to the Iraqi leader dealing with the latest Middle East and Gulf war developments. Egypt and Iraq have had no diplomatic relations since 1977, when Cairo signed a treaty with Israel, but relations have improved since Mr. Mubarak came to office in 1981. The minister also said the governments of the two countries' central banks have agreed to continue cooperation to ease Iraqi restrictions on transfer of the remittances of Egyptians working in Iraq to their home country. There are some two million Egyptians in Iraq.

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جوردان تايمز جريدة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

PLO starts mediation talks

DAMASCUS (R) — A 10-man Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) mediation team met Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam Tuesday for talks on a revolt in Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah group. The official Syrian News Agency SANA, which reported the meeting, said it had covered the Fatah dispute and the current situation in the Arab World. Mr. Arafat has accused Syria and Libya of backing the three-month-old rebellion against his leadership. Syria has denied any direct intervention in the revolt. On Monday the delegation, appointed by the PLO's Central Council, met rebel leader Colonel Abu Musa and his aides. Abu Musa told reporters afterwards that he had presented his views on reforms he thought necessary inside Fatah, the biggest Palestinian guerrilla group.

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Saud holds talks in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal Friday met Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa for talks on Arab and Gulf problems, officials said. The meeting lasted an hour but the officials declined to give details of the talks. Prince Saud is here on the fourth leg of a tour which has already taken him to Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, amid reports of a Saudi mediation attempt to defuse the Lebanese crisis.

Karachi court building set ablaze

KARACHI (R) — An angry crowd Tuesday set fire to three court buildings and blocked a railway line in a town north of here on the third day of protests against military rule in Pakistan, opposition sources said. The sources said the crowd of more than 2,000 people clashed with police for three hours and also damaged several other government offices, a passenger train and a number of motor vehicles at Dadu-200 kilometres north of the Sindh provincial capital, Karachi. (Large gatherings banned in Karachi, page 2).

Iraq permits gold imports by individuals

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi government has issued a new decree allowing gold imports by individuals. Previously, only the central bank was allowed to import the metal, selling it to goldsmiths for jewellery manufacture. The new law, published in Tuesday's Al-Thawra newspaper, allows Iraqis to bring up to 250 grammes of gold ornaments into the country duty-free. Any additional imported gold would be subject to a 35 per cent duty. Non-Iraqis will be allowed to import only bullion gold, subject to a 35 per cent duty on any quantity.

ICFTU urges isolation of Chile

BRUSSELS (R) — The World's largest non-communist trade union group Tuesday called on all countries to isolate the government of President Augusto Pinochet in Chile. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) said recent killings of unarmed demonstrators were proof of "the moral as well as economic bankruptcy of the Pinochet regime." John Vanderveken, head of the ICFTU, which sent a fact-finding mission to Chile in July, said in a statement the 85 million workers in 95 countries represented by the ICFTU would step up their action to outlaw Chile.

Hunger strike ends in Turkish jails

ISTANBUL (R) — Hunger strikes begun in early July in four Istanbul jails by hundreds of prisoners protesting against maltreatment have ended, martial law officials here said Tuesday. They denied reports circulating among Turkish opposition groups in Europe that two hunger strikers in Istanbul had died under torture. But they said dozens of protesters had been admitted to hospital after falling ill during the fast. All were now recovering, they said.

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Lebanese press reports Saudi, Jordanian mediation Beirut airport reopens as Druze call off siege

BEIRUT (R) — Beirut airport reopened Tuesday after Arab mediation aimed at easing tension in Lebanon and airliners landed again, ending six days of closure under threat of attack from Druze militiamen.

Lebanese press reports said the reopening followed mediation by envoys from Saudi Arabia and Jordan between the government of President Amin Gemayel and Druze leader Walid Junblatt. Mr. Junblatt, whose gunners pounded the airport last week from mountain positions, gave assurances through the mediators that his men would not attack it, the reports said. In turn, the leftist daily As Safir reported the government had told one of Mr. Junblatt's allies, Nabih Berri, who leads the Shiite Muslim Amal militia, that it was committed to national reconciliation. The first scheduled flight to land was an Alfa, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, plane from Amman. Shortly afterwards a Boeing 707 of the Lebanese national carrier Middle East Airlines (MEA) touched down from Larnaca in Cyprus.

The government said afterwards it was looking at earlier Druze appeals for a greater say in the running of Lebanon. There was no immediate indication that any of the demands had been met. State-run Beirut Radio said parliament met in closed session to discuss "political and security developments in the country." Former President Suleiman Franjeh told reporters Wednesday he ruled out national reconciliation unless the government renounced its troop withdrawal agreement with Israel. Mr. Franjeh is a member of the newly formed Syrian-backed opposition National Salvation Front, which includes Mr. Junblatt. The Druze oppose the entry of the Lebanese army into their strongholds in the Shouf areas before an agreement is reached with the Druze community. Government leaders have contacted some opposition figures in an effort to achieve national accord, needed to pave the way for the army to take control of the Shouf areas when the Israeli army starts a planned partial withdrawal.

Arens reaffirms redeployment plans in S. Lebanon Israeli soldiers will evacuate Shouf within days, says Levy

TEL AVIV (R) — Chief of Staff Moshe Levy said Tuesday that Israeli forces would withdraw to new "defensive positions" in South Lebanon within days. The army's long-planned redeployment would "be implemented in a short time... a matter of days," General Levy told a foreign press association luncheon in Tel Aviv. The army is planning to withdraw from the Beirut area, the Shouf mountains and positions on the Beirut-Damascus road and to redeploy behind a "defence line" in South Lebanon. Some logistical and support units have already been withdrawn from the Shouf mountains. Bulldozers have begun building a chain of fortified posts along the new line, which follows the Awali River. Gen. Levy gave no further details but his statement appeared to indicate that Israel was about to pull combat units out of the Shouf, where they have failed to stem serious fighting between Druze and rightist militias. A wide range of Lebanese, including President Gemayel, believe the Israelis plan to stay in their new positions, partitioning the country into Israeli and Syrian areas. Mr. Arens' statement said Israel had guaranteed to leave Lebanon within eight to 12 weeks of the coming into force of a U.S.-backed troop withdrawal accord signed with Lebanon on May 17. However, in a side letter to the accord, Israel said it would not be implemented until Syrian forces also agreed to leave. Syria has rejected the agreement, effectively killing it. U.S. special envoy Robert McFarlane, on a Middle East mission to secure withdrawal of all foreign forces — Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian — from Lebanon, held talks in Israel Tuesday. According to diplomats in Beirut, President Amin Gemayel's government has asked Israel to delay its departure until a peace accord can be worked out between the warring gunmen. Crack Lebanese force ready for deployment in Shouf, page 2

Arab League deplores Liberian move towards Israel

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League Tuesday deplored Liberia's recent decision to resume diplomatic relations with Israel and hoped it would reconsider. In a statement issued in Tunis, the Arab League said it considered the decision a serious violation of the principles of Arab-African cooperation and a desertion of a unanimous decision taken by a whole continent. "Arab peoples do not fight Israel and oppose its policy simply because it occupies Arab territories, but because it is the incarnation of evil, the tool of a philosophy full of hatred and a racist ideology... and because it supports the segregationist regime in South Africa," the statement said. The statement said Liberia's decision will not turn Arab states away from their commitments towards Africa and they will continue fighting the apartheid regime in South Africa. "The League of Arab states hopes the Liberian government will review its decision and respect the principles for which our Arab and African peoples have fought," the statement said.

Shamir meets Ceausescu in Bucharest

VIENNA (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday met Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu for talks believed to have concentrated on the situation in the Middle East. An Israeli embassy official said he could give no details beyond confirming that the meeting took place. Romanian officials also kept silent on the substance of the discussions, and there was no immediate report on Tuesday's session by the official news agency Agerpres. Romania is the only Soviet bloc country to have diplomatic relations with Israel, and has acted as an intermediary in the Middle East. Mr. Shamir arrived in Bucharest Monday for a four-day visit, and had a preliminary round of talks Monday night with Romanian Foreign Minister Stefan Andrei. Agerpres said they discussed the international situation and bilateral relations, and paid special attention to the Middle East. Mr. Shamir told reporters before leaving Tel Aviv that he expected to have "intensive discussions" with Mr. Ceausescu on the Middle East conflict.

Honecker begins significant Polish visit

WARSAW (R) — East German head of state Erich Honecker began a three-day visit Tuesday as part of a process of rehabilitating Poland in the eyes of its Soviet bloc allies after three years of political upheaval. His arrival coincided with the announcement of new measures in the port of Gdansk to prevent demonstrations after two days of brief protests by workers supporting the banned Solidarity trade union. Mr. Honecker was warmly greeted by General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Communist Party leader and prime minister who imposed martial law in December 1981 to halt Solidarity's growing political threat. Mr. Honecker, who keeps a tight grip on East German internal security, was one of the most outspoken critics of Solidarity and of past compromises by the Polish government. Western diplomats see his visit, the first to Poland by a Soviet bloc head of state since martial law was lifted last month, as setting a seal of approval on Gen. Jaruzelski's handling of the Solidarity challenge. In Gdansk, Provincial Governor Mieczyslaw Cygan said misdeeds of courts could use accelerated procedures to deal with people who held meetings without permission, refused to disperse

after warnings, or put up posters illegally. He said the rules would also apply to "those who use places of worship for calling meetings not connected with religion." This reflected government anger that demonstrations often start after Roman Catholic church services, despite calls by many priests for worshippers to go home peacefully. The regulations apply until Sept. 15, thus including the Aug. 31 anniversary of agreements in Gdansk in 1980 which gave birth to Solidarity. Last year big demonstrations were held on the anniversary in Gdansk and other cities.



MYSTERIOUS, DEADLY BLAST: A police investigator checks over the charred body of Yehya Nasser Ali, 47, chauffeur of South Yemen's top diplomat in France, after an explosion and fire which swept the diplomatic car near the South Yemeni embassy in Paris. Officials have not been able to determine the cause of the explosion (A.P. wirephoto)

Bundestag delegation leaves Amman

AMMAN (R) — A West German parliamentary delegation headed by Hans-Juergen Wischnewski, deputy chairman of the West German Bundestag's (parliament) Foreign Relations Committee, left Amman after a two-day visit Tuesday on their way to the occupied Arab territories crossing River Jordan. During their stay in the occupied territories the delegation is expected to meet the mayors of Bethlehem and Al Bireh, Mr. Elias Freit and Mr. Ibrahim Al Tawil respectively. The delegation is also scheduled to visit Cairo, Jeddah and later on Tunis where they are expected to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. Before their departure to the occupied territories Mr. Wischnewski and his accompanying delegation met with the departed president of Beit Zait university, Dr. Hanna Nasser, who briefed the team on the current events in the occupied territories. Before leaving Jordan the West German delegation also paid a visit to the widow of Mr. Issam Sartawi, who was killed a few months ago in Portugal.

Ali: Egypt is not a U.S. ally

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, apparently trying to placate growing resentment by the opposition of closer ties with Washington, said Tuesday his country was not an ally of the United States. Speaking to an audience at Cairo University, Mr. Ali said Egypt was a non-aligned country but had "special relations with the United States." Mr. Ali's comments, reported by the official Middle East News Agency (MENA), came as Egypt's opposition parties were strongly campaigning against the signing in Egypt of joint military manoeuvres with American troops. Al Shaab, journal of the Socialist Labour Party (SLP), Tuesday said the war games constituted a violation of Egypt's non-aligned policies and accused the government of President Hosni Mubarak of involvement in superpower conflicts. But Mr. Ali said the fact that Egypt was following a non-aligned policy did not prevent it from having special relations with a certain country. "We have normal relations with all countries in the world and special ties with the United States," he said. Egypt, the world's second largest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel, has stated in the past that the manoeuvres had no relation to the Chad war in which Libyan-backed insurgents are fighting the government troops of President Hissene Habre. Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi has accused the Cairo government of planning hostile action in cooperation with the United States.

King urges more public awareness

MA'AN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said here Tuesday that "the sound internal front in Jordan and the vigilance and awareness of its people have always constituted a strong rock on which numerous challenges and dangers have been destroyed." King Hussein, who was addressing a public rally during a visit to Ma'an Governorate, said: "Jordanians can best translate their loyalty and law-abiding attitudes by offering sacrifices for the country and working hard to develop their towns and villages and by protecting roads, airports, tourist sites and other public utilities." "Jordanians live as a united family, with all citizens enjoying equal rights and responsibilities and everyone has the right to enjoy stability and security while the government is required to look after their welfare and provide decent living for all," King Hussein said.

The King said that municipal and village councils have a "special responsibility towards the inhabitants and their achievements can be measured only by the good results that they attain and by sacrifice and faithful service for the nation." "We will not allow 'public services' to serve as an arena for negative rivalry or a means for attaining personal ambitions or gains," King Hussein said. He reminded his audience that he was happy to meet the citizens in Ma'an, "the city whose citizens earlier this century were the first to live by the principles of the Great Arab Revolt that embodied unity, freedom, and independence and exercised the meanings of honesty, manliness and high morals." Cheering crowds greet King in Ma'an, page 3

Tamimi calls for Islamic action to counter Zionists

AMMAN (Petra) — The deported Islamic justice of Hebron, Sheikh Rajab Al Tamimi, has proposed the convening of an Islamic conference during the Muslim pilgrimage season to draw up plans and take practical steps aimed at aborting Zionist designs in the occupied Arab territories. Sheikh Tamimi's call was contained in a cable addressed to the World Islamic League in Mecca. The league should shoulder its responsibilities towards the events in the occupied Arab territories, Sheikh Tamimi said in the cable. Sheikh Tamimi also outlined the illegal Israeli measures, the establishment of settlements on confiscated Arab land, the eviction of its Arab inhabitants, Israel's continued acts of sacrilege in Islamic holy places, arrests of Palestinian citizens, demolition of people's homes and the imposition of collective punishments on the Arab population under occupation.

Tunis meeting to study situation in Palestine

TUNIS (R) — The 31st meeting of Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees which opened Monday in Tunis is expected to discuss Israel's confiscation of Arab lands, the eviction of Palestinians from refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the general conditions of Palestinians under Israeli rule. The week-long meeting was opened by the Arab League Assistant Secretary-General Mohammed Al Farra who made a speech outlining latest Middle East developments and the Palestine problem as well as problems which the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) now faces. In his speech, Dr. Farra also outlined the ordeal of the Palestinians under Israeli arbitrary rule and Zionist plans for Judaizing Palestine and evicting its people from their homeland. Delegates to the meeting representing Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and the Arab League General Secretariat will also be discussing refugee problems and the role of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), funds needed for the reconstruction of refugee camps in Lebanon, the possible effects of the planned Israeli project to link the Mediterranean and Dead Seas and health conditions of refugees in Lebanon and the occupied Palestine. Jordan's delegation is led by Mr. Shawkat Maimoun, under-secretary at the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

Israel reportedly plans underground settlement

AMMAN (Petra) — A report published recently by the Israeli newspaper Maariv says that plans are under way for establishing a new Israeli settlement underground, the first of its kind in the occupied Arab territories. The paper said that the settlement will be built totally underground somewhere in the Jordan Valley region. Another Israeli newspaper, Davar, said that Zionist institutions charged with carrying out the construction of settlements in Arab lands have requested \$165 million from the government to establish four new settlements in the Jordan Valley. The new settlements would house 6,500 settlers over the coming three years, the paper said.

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MIDDLE EAST

Chadians prepare for next round

N'DJAMENA (R) — Government and rebel troops in Chad are strengthening their positions either side of a line dividing the country in two as France sends in more troops to help prevent the rebels taking over the whole country.

Informed military sources said here Monday that by next week 1,000 French troops could have arrived to train the forces of President Hissene Habre, who are fighting the Libyan-backed forces of Goukouni Oueddei, the man he ousted 14 months ago.

Tons of fresh military supplies continued to arrive from France and French troops were airlifted to the eastern Habre stronghold of Abeche and the western outpost of Salala Monday as the rebels and their Libyan allies consolidated their hold on the northern part of the country, informed sources said.

Libya has denied any involvement in the conflict but Chadian Information Minister Mahamat Soumaila Monday gave what he said was new evidence of Libya's expansionist designs towards Chad.

He said Libyan dinars had begun circulating as legal tender in the rebel-controlled town of Faya-Largeau in the north. French presidential adviser on African affairs Guy Penne left here Monday for Cameroon after talks with President Habre. No statement was issued but informed sources said Mr. Habre was bound to have pressed once again for a full French ground and air intervention.

France has so far insisted that a joint military cooperation agreement prevents its troops from taking part in the fighting. Chad argues that it is being attacked from a foreign country and that this justifies French military intervention.

The hundreds of French paratroopers now in Chad are officially described as technical instructors but analysts in N'djamena speculated they would probably get into the fray if the rebels tried

to progress further south.

The overall commander of French troops in Chad, Col. Bernard Massana, has stressed that his men were not to engage in fighting. But he has also said they were empowered to return fire if attacked.

Commenting on the deployment of French troops outside the capital, Mr. Soumaila said Monday: "France has a free hand to be militarily present wherever it likes on our soil to help us defend the country's territorial integrity."

A French military source said Monday night there were now between 700 and 800 French soldiers in Chad.

In Brazzaville, where 11 African leaders are meeting informally, a top Libyan official denied his country was involved in the fighting.

Ali Tureiki, Libya's chief representative at the United Nations, told reporters Libya favoured national reconciliation.

French oppose intervention

PARIS (R) — As French paratroopers were reported taking up forward positions in Chad, an opinion poll published here Tuesday showed 53 per cent of Frenchmen questioned opposed direct military intervention in the Central African country's civil war.

The poll, carried out by the Ifres organisation for the daily newspaper Le Quotidien, said that, although 53 per cent were against direct military intervention, 62 per cent thought the civil war would become a major international conflict.

In addition, 74 per cent thought Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi posed a threat to world peace. Over the weekend, more French paratroopers left for Chad, bringing the total to about 700.



Two French paratroopers, one equipped with an automatic rifle, stand guard on the waterfront of the Chari River, in N'Djamena, Chad. On the opposite side of the river is Kameroun. (A.P. wirephoto).

according to informed sources. Contingents have been sent to Abeche and Salala, two key towns in Central Chad threatened by the advance of Libyan-backed rebels.

France maintains that the paratroopers are in Chad strictly as advisers to train President Habre's troops to fight against the rebel forces of Mr. Oueddei.

But military experts here said the paratroopers, some of France's best-trained soldiers, were well-equipped with anti-tank missiles and heavy weapons.

France has been providing Mr. Habre with aid, weapons and instructors under a 1976 bilateral agreement, but President Francois Mitterrand's socialist administration has consistently re-

jected Chadian demands for combat troops and air cover.

Over the weekend, the newspaper Le Monde said France had moved four Jaguar strike aircraft to Bangui in the Central African Republic and four to Niamey, in Niger, both former French colonies bordering Chad. All the aircraft were supported by tanker planes and six Mirage interceptors in Dakar, Senegal.

As French aid continued to be flow into Chad, political commentators said the civil war was giving President Mitterrand his biggest foreign policy problem since taking power in 1981.

The Socialist Party, publicly opposed to any form of military intervention in Africa that could

be construed as colonialism, has been reluctant to be seen as the gendarme of the continent despite pressure from the United States.

Instead the administration adopted a cautious approach, at first sending only arms and equipment, and then advisers as the situation worsened and evidence appeared of direct Libyan intervention.

After announcing that troops were heading for Chad to instruct Mr. Habre's men, Defence Minister Charles Hernu said France would match Libya's actions except for Tripoli's alleged bombing of civilians, a remark which commentators said left open an option for direct French involvement.

Right-wing opposition groups in France have criticised the government's action as being too little and too late.

The official Communist Party newspaper L'Humanite has called for negotiation rather than direct intervention.

Political sources said the four communist ministers in the cabinet disagreed with the idea of direct involvement.

Political commentators said Mr. Mitterrand's silence since the Chad war was due to his wish to stop any extension of the conflict and to prevent it becoming a major East-West confrontation.

Africans call for peace

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — A African leaders meeting here have called for national reconciliation as the only way to end the seven-week-old conflict in Chad.

They asked Organisation of African Unity (OAU) chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia to contact both the government of Hissene Habre and the Libyan-backed rebels to arrange a ceasefire, according to a communiqué issued Monday night.

President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, who is also attending the celebrations, refused to sign the communiqué, arguing that Chad was a victim of Libyan aggression, informed sources said.

Qadhafi visits Tunisia

MONASTIR, Tunisia (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi arrived Tuesday on an official visit to Tunisia intended to show, according to Arab diplomats, that he is not isolated on the African stage.

The two-day visit, made at Col. Qadhafi's request, must be seen in the light of efforts to build up a united North Africa, considered an essential step towards Arab unity, the Tunisian foreign ministry said in a statement Monday.

Col. Qadhafi's visit, which comes at a time when he is accused in the West of giving direct military aid to rebel forces fighting in Chad, ends a tour of North African countries. He has recently been to Algeria and Mauritania as well as Morocco where he had not set foot for 14 years.

The Libyan leader, who found himself isolated at June's Org-

anisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Addis Ababa over Chad and Western Sahara issues, has since tried to improve relations with Arab moderates and his North African neighbours.

Col. Qadhafi was welcomed at Monastir, 200 kilometres south of Tunis by Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali. It was not known whether he will see President Habib Bourguiba, who was advised by his doctors Monday to rest in bed.

Although Libyan-Tunisian ties have improved since an attack in 1980 on the southern town of Gafsa by anti-government commandos coming from Libya, the two countries still hold differing views on a number of issues, Tunisian diplomatic sources said.

Besides Chad, the two states differ over the Middle East and Palestinian issues.

Turkish press details U.N. proposal

ANKARA (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has made detailed proposals for a Cyprus solution including a rotating presidency and land concessions by the Turkish minority, a Turkish newspaper said Tuesday.

In a despatch from Nicosia, the left-of-centre daily Cumhuriyet said Mr. Perez de Cuellar had suggested a rotational presidency as one of two proposals for a government structure to reunite the divided island.

The newspaper, which gave no source for its report, said he also proposed that the Turks should settle for between 23 and 30 per cent of the island's territory, depending on how much power they were willing to cede to the central government.

The Turks, who now control 35 to 40 per cent of the island, want a

loose federation giving both communities considerable independence.

A spokesman for Mr. Perez de Cuellar at the United Nations in New York said Monday the secretary-general was continuing his efforts to promote a Cyprus settlement, but denied that he had offered any new proposal or precise plan.

The U.N. General Assembly called on Mr. Perez de Cuellar last May to play a bigger part in solving the Cyprus problem.

It also called for an end to the nine-year occupation of northern Cyprus by Turkish troops, a move which angered the Turkish Cypriot administration. It broke off long-standing intercommunal talks with the Greek Cypriot government in the south and threatened a unilateral declaration of independence.

Cumhuriyet said Mr. Perez de Cuellar proposed two possible government structures.

One envisaged the presidency and prime ministership alternating between the communities, with Greeks taking 70 per cent of government posts and Turks 30 per cent.

The other envisaged a Greek president and a Turkish deputy president, with Greeks holding 60 per cent of government posts and the Turks 40 per cent, the newspaper said.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar also proposed a two-chamber parliament with the upper house seats distributed equally between the communities and the lower house elected either by proportional representation or based on a 7-3 ratio in favour of the Greek majority, it added.

Crack Lebanese unit waits for Shouf

By Randall Palmer
Reuter

JOUNIEH, Lebanon — Eight Lebanese commandos dashed across a field, quickly laid explosive charges on a railroad track and returned behind tall reeds to their beachhead.

The bombs did not go off and there were no casualties. The commandos were members of the 600-man second air assault battalion, undergoing the most intensive training in the Lebanese army including one month under the French Foreign Legion.

The battalion commander, Maj. Youssef Tahhan, said his men would spearhead a deployment by the Lebanese army to replace Israeli troops in the strife-torn Shouf Mountains when Israel withdraws from the mountains, a move it plans to complete in the next few months.

"The troops are ready", Maj. Tahhan said. "All we lack is the order" — from Lebanese President Amin Gemayel.

An assignment in the Shouf is likely to be the toughest job for the new army, which will have to assert control over the warring Druze community and right-wing Christian militiamen.

The battalion, which would go in advance of the rest of the 33,000-strong army to take control of strategic points, first underwent three months' basic training and one month's further training from United States Marines who, like the French, are part of a multi-national peacekeeping force in Beirut.

The French Foreign Legion is now training them in mountain combat, commando operations, amphibious attacks, and the use of mortars and anti-tank missiles.

The soldiers repeat their movements until they are impeccable, even learning to set up missiles blindfolded, a French captain said.

At present, the Lebanese army controls only Beirut while Israeli and Syrian forces rule most of the rest of the country, with an enclave of right-wing Christian militiamen north and east of the capital.

Both the French and U.S. sections of the peacekeeping force have refused to enter the Shouf Mountains unless a peace agreement is reached among warring factions.

Druze leader Walid Jumblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), has warned repeatedly that if the Lebanese army goes to the Shouf before the government reaches agreement with the Druze community, they would rise in arms.

Recent weeks have seen fierce fighting erupt between Lebanese army patrols in the Shouf and Druze gunmen.

Last week the Druze kidnapped three Lebanese cabinet ministers and released them on condition they presented a tough 10-point set of demands to the government, including a ban on army deployment in the Shouf without a political agreement.

Maj. Tahhan, speaking in a mountain camp northeast of Beirut, near the Christian town of Broumana, put his arm around

one of his lieutenants, a Druze, and said his company would be the first to go into a Druze area.

The lieutenant said he was confident, predicting that the Druze would accept the army in the Shouf because this was the only legitimate way to restore order to Lebanon.

Another young lieutenant, this one a Christian from Zahle, acknowledged the potential dangers. But said: "Who dares, wins," which happens to be the motto of Britain's elite commando group, the Special Air Service (SAS).

But a French officer, while admiring the confidence and eagerness of the soldiers, said: "They can talk, but they need more than one battalion."

Pointing to the rocky, hilly terrain, he noted that one Lebanese general had suggested 40,000 troops might be needed for successful deployment in the Shouf.

Even the second air assault battalion needs further conditioning, another French officer said. "We go on an eight-kilometre hike and they complain of sore feet."

The battalion is to receive another month's training in commando operations from hardened U.S. units. Meanwhile, the first and third air assault battalions are to begin training with the French, Maj. Tahhan said.

A senior French officer with the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut said the Lebanese have discussed the possibility of the force moving into the Shouf and nearby areas to support the army. But he said there had been no official request, at least to the French.

Iranian students linked to hit squads

MANILA (R) — Eight or nine Iranian students in the Philippines have been identified as members of a death squad alleged to have been set up to kill Iranian opponents of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, local newspapers reported Tuesday.

They quoted Philippines education ministry officials as saying at least five Iranian students at university or college in Manila were known as supporters of the late Shah of Iran and might have been targets of the death squad since the beginning of the year.

The reports did not name the members of the squad "pending action by the government." But they said two of them were now out of the country and ministry officials had recommended that they should not be allowed to return.

Ministry officials said about 200 Iranian students were enrolled at universities and colleges in the Manila area compared with 5,000 in 1978 before the Shah was overthrown.

They were given temporary accommodation but, shortly after, the daughter disappeared.

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:00 Koran
16:30 Children's Programme
17:00 Basketball highlights
17:30 Small World
18:00 Local Programme
18:30 Arab Series
19:00 News in Arabic
20:00 Basketball Highlights Review
21:45 Wrestling
22:30 News Summary
23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Arab Series cont.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Some Mother Do as them
21:00 Documentary
22:00 News in English
22:15 Women in White

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 95.00 KHz, SW

07:00 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
08:00 News Summary
08:30 Morning Show
09:00 News Summary
09:30 Pop Session
10:00 News Summary
10:30 News Bulletin
11:00 News Summary
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23:30 News Bulletin
24:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

720, 1415 KHz

06:00 Newsday 06:45 Financial News
06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News
07:05 24 Hours News Summary 07:30
07:35 Fiddlers 07:45 The World Today
08:00 Newsday 08:30 Divisions
08:35 24 Hours News Summary 08:59 King of
09:00 Sports Market Report 09:00 World News
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09:35 Guide to the Galaxy 10:00
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مكتبة الجول

NEWS

Arab children visit Jerash, Ajloun sites

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 100 Arab children, who are visiting Jordan at the invitation of Her Majesty Queen Noor, were Tuesday taken on a tour to Jerash and Ajloun where they visited archaeological and historic sites as well as the venues for Jerash Festival.

They were accompanied by Ministry of Information, and Youth Welfare Organisation officials.

The 10-day programme includes other tours to the country's tourist and archaeological sites to

acquaint the children with the country's culture and progress.

The visiting children will also tour Jordanian museums, the Amman Roman amphitheatre, Petra, the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea and the two bridges spanning the River Jordan.

The children taking part in the programme come from Bahrain, Qatar, Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, North Yemen and Oman.

Five killed in accidents

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — Five people were killed and two others injured, one seriously, in accidents which occurred in the Irbid and Mafraq districts Monday.

A report in Al Ra'i newspaper said that a road accident involving a pick-up truck and a heavy lorry caused the death of 24-year old Mustafa Sulaiman and 26-year old Isma 'Azoul.

The two were in the pick-up truck which was trying to overtake another car heading towards Khalidiyyah from Mafraq when it collided head-on with the on-coming lorry. The lorry driver Ahmad, Yusuf was seriously injured along with his passenger Ahmad 'Oklah.

Fourteen-year old Khalaf Al Badarin and 12-year old Dhib Al Badarin were killed when the donkey they were riding stepped on an old explosive charge over rugged terrain, five kilometres north of Mafraq. Police are holding an investigation.

In another incident a child, identified only as Samir K., Monday fell into a water well and drowned near his home in the town of Sum Al Shunnaq in the Irbid Governorate while playing.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mafraq to set up industrial estate

AMMAN (Petra) — Mafraq Municipality has purchased 100 dunums of land to set up an industrial estate west of Mafraq, according to Mafraq Mayor Mahmoud 'Uleimat. He said that all the studies and technical specifications will be prepared by the municipality after allocating funds for the project. A survey has revealed that there are 120 craftsmen employed in Mafraq, Mr. 'Uleimat added.

IDEOCO starts electrification of Al Hursh

AMMAN (Petra) — The Irbid District Electricity Company (IDEOCO) has started technical works on the electrification of the town of Al Hursh in the district of Mafraq. These entail the laying of high and low voltage transmission lines as well as the erection of distribution grids and substations. The project, which will be completed in the coming few months, is estimated to cost JD 35,000.

Yarmouk announces postgrad intake

AMMAN (Petra) — Yarmouk University Royal Commission Tuesday announced that 196 students will be accepted for the academic year 1983/1984 for post graduate studies. The breakdown of this figure is as follows: Civil engineering 24; electrical engineering 24; mechanical engineering 24; Arabic 12; education 40; statistics 15; mathematics 15; biology 12; chemistry 15; and physics 15.

Karak begins road maintenance project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Karak Directorate of Public Works Tuesday started a maintenance project for the 38.5 km. of roads in the district of Karak at a cost of JD 500,000. This scheme includes the improvement of roads in the villages of Qaser, Faku, Al Zahra, 'Emra, Al Husseinieh, Al Taibeh, Thar Ras, Al Shehabieh and Azar, according to Karak Public Works Director Khalaf Al Hawwari.

Public park complete, says 'Uleimat

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-dunum public park has been completed in Mafraq at a cost of JD 33,000, according to Mafraq Mayor Mahmoud 'Uleimat. The park includes a theatre, a children's library and a swimming pool, Mr. 'Uleimat added.

Youth commits suicide in Irbid

IRBID (J.T.) — A 17-year-old man in Kufr Assad in the Irbid Governorate committed suicide by hanging himself with a rope from a ceiling in an abandoned hut, according to a report in Al Dustour newspaper Monday. It said that the man, identified only as V.A., had apparently hanged himself by first climbing on top of a barrel and then kicking it away once the rope was tied around his neck. Irbid public prosecutor is investigating the incident, the paper said.

Arab productivity training course ends

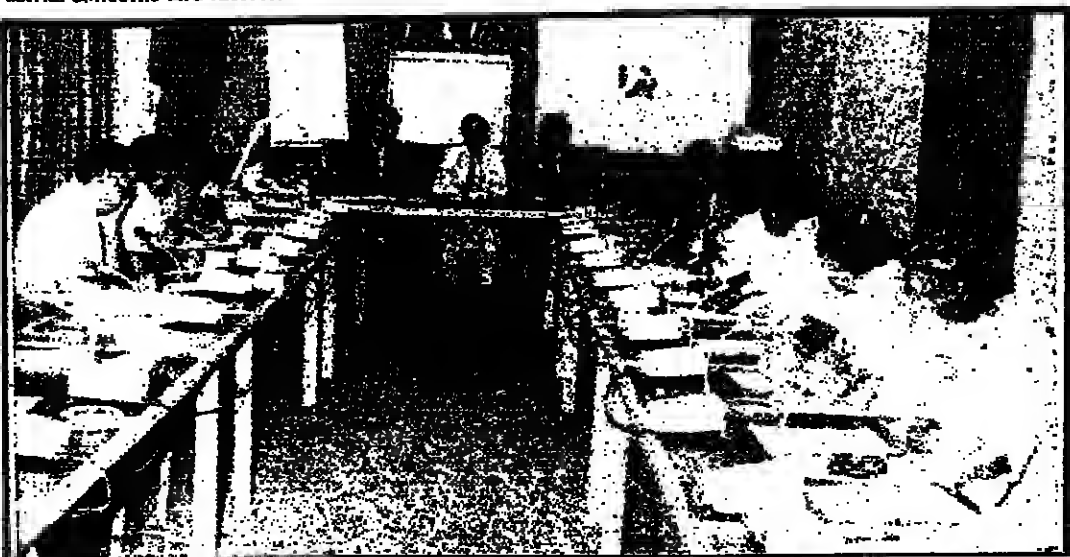
AMMAN (Petra) — A ten-day training course on productivity and means of improving production levels opened at the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) in Amman Monday.

Participants representing industrial concerns and factories in a

number of Arab countries will hear lectures on ways of overcoming problems impeding increased production levels, and the optimal use of material resources and the raising of product standards.

The course is organised by the

Arab Organisation for Industrial Development (AOID) whose representative Othman Tamam made a speech at the opening session. During his address, he outlined the importance his organisation attaches to the improvement of Arab industries and in training personnel in this field.



Participants at the ten-day training course on productivity organised by the Arab Organisation for

Industrial Development which opened in Amman Monday (Petra photo)



His Majesty King Hussein addresses a public rally in Ma'an Tuesday (above). The King greets the Ma'an populace as he enters the city (below)



Local press donates JD 1,000 to set up fund for children's cultural events

AMMAN (Petra) — Local Arabic language newspapers Al Ra'i and Al Dustour have made a donation of JD 500 each to help set up a fund that will finance children's cultural activities, according to an announcement by the Department of Culture and Arts which is initiating the project.

The project entails the issue of children's magazine, the publishing of books and other publications on children's activities, the production of children's plays, the organisation of exhibitions of children's art work and the holding of seminars for children.

According to the department's Director, Halid Mahmoud, several Jordanian institutions and individuals have expressed a willingness to support the project financially and materially. The department, he said, will shortly launch a campaign to raise funds for the project.

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Cheering crowds, flags greet Hussein in Ma'an

MA'AN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said here Tuesday that "Jordan is determined to pursue the march for economic and social development to achieve maximum self-sufficiency."

The King was addressing a public rally in Ma'an in southern Jordan during a tour in which he inspected several development projects.

He said that Jordan's achievements in education, public services, labour and other fields has placed additional responsibilities on its citizens. Jordanians, he said, will have to continue the building process, develop their country's natural wealth, grow more food and take measures to protect their environment, cultural heritage, archaeology and history.

The current developments require further cooperation between all citizens and officials to implement plans for the building of a brighter future for the coming generations. King Hussein said.

Jordan, King Hussein said, takes pride in the national principles laid down by the Great Arab Revolt. The country has pursued a sound policy line, honoured its commitments towards the Arab Nation and rallied to the help of all its Arab brothers especially in Palestine and Iraq; all because Jordan has a sound internal base and vigilant citizens willing to rise to every challenge. King Hussein said.

In his speech, King Hussein called

led on his people to abide by the country's laws, to be willing to sacrifice themselves for their country and fellow countrymen and set a good example for others in every possible way.

The country can only be protected by its people, and therefore every single man and woman should work side by side to build up the country in the factories, fields and armed forces, King Hussein said.

King Hussein, accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, Court Minister Amer Khamash and the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, arrived in Ma'an at noon and were welcomed by cheering crowds who lined the streets of the city which was bedecked with flags for the occasion.

Upon his arrival, King Hussein was met by the National Consultative Council Speaker Sulaiman Arar, former prime minister Bahjat Talhouh, cabinet members, Ma'an Governor Turki Al Hindawi, tribal chieftains, heads of local government departments and other notables.

At the outset of his tour, King Hussein visited the housing project which has been commissioned by the Housing Corporation and

implemented by a Chinese firm. The 500-housing units near Ma'an are to cost JD 3.25 million and will be for use primarily by workers in the railway corporation, the glass factory and the electricity company, the King was told.

The project is expected to be completed by April 1984.

Present to welcome the King at the project site were Chinese officials and workers, the Housing Corporation director and representative of the Chinese embassy in Amman.

King Hussein and his party later called at the glass factory and met Arab and foreign workers employed there. He toured the different sections of the factory, which is still under construction and which is expected to produce nearly 27,000 tonnes of plain and coloured glass annually. The factory is expected to start production operations early in 1984.

A spokesman for the factory said that nearly 141 engineers, technicians and workers will be employed in the factory which is expected to have an overall cost of JD 12.5 million.

King Hussein's next stop was the pilgrims' camp where he met local inhabitants and officials. Several notables made speeches paying tribute to the King's policies and the progress achieved in the country under his leadership.

The speakers included the Ma'an governor, NCC members and Ma'an Mayor Mohammed Khrishan.

Villages to get loans

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Hassan Al Momani has requested loans totalling JD 100,000 from the Cities and Villages Development Bank for three village councils in the Irbid Governorate.

A loan of JD 60,000 will be offered to Al Hashimieh, JD 75,000 will go to the village of Samar and JD 55,000 will be granted to Sama Al Rousan village.

The loans will be used to finance the asphalted roads, school buildings and improving water networks in the three villages.

Jabal Al Hashimi to get new Zarqa feed road

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Municipality is to build a road to connect Jabal Al Hashimi, a suburb to the east of the capital with the main highway to Zarqa. Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh said here Tuesday.

He was speaking at a meeting with representatives from the community of Jabal Al Hashimi, who called at the municipality to request improved services in their area. Mayor Rawabdeh told the representatives that the Amman Municipality will soon open a children's park in their part of the city in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Federation.

Also a plot of land will be assigned to establish a vegetable market while pavements for existing roads will be built and the number of electric street lights increased to light the roads, Mr. Rawabdeh added.

He then went on to say that the excavations brought to light stone statues, pottery, brass coins and inscriptions which reveal that the Nabatean temple was used for worshipping Al 'Uzza god, well-known among ancient Arabs.

The pottery found at the temple site indicates the close artistic connections between the Nabateans and the Egyptians, the spokesman said.

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Jordan to take part in Damascus Fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the Damascus International Fair scheduled to open in Damascus on Aug. 22.

Jordan's pavilion Director Nawras Khreisat and Ministry of Industry and Trade representatives arrived in Damascus to supervise the maintenance work on the pavilion prior to the displaying.

The pavilion will house a wide range of Jordanian products which will arrive in Damascus in readiness for the show in two days' time.

Taking part in the fair, which will last till Sept. 10, will be 33 Arab and foreign countries in addition to several private companies.

Dig ends after throwing light on Petra

AMMAN (J.T.) — An archaeological team from the American University of Utah has completed a fourth season of excavations at the Winged Lion Temple in the heart of the Nabatean city of Petra.

A spokesman for the Department of Antiquities, which helped in the excavation, said that work, which started on June 20,

focused on unearthing the remaining western antiquities of the temple.

The digs proved that the temple was destroyed in an earthquake which hit the southern parts of Jordan in A.D. 551, the spokesman said.

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Mediaeval poetry duel captivates festival crowd

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — A table laden with fruit, symbolising the abundant greenery of Lebanon, was the stage setting at the Artemis steps for the Zaghlul Damur Poetry at the Jerash Festival on Monday evening. The four members of the group seated themselves at the table with five singers placed behind them. There was a silence while the crowd, seated on the steps, waited in anticipation.

They were certainly not disappointed by the hour and a half of wit, teasing and romance projected in a unique form that followed. The programme consisted of verse sung in turn by the group members interspersed with choruses of singing and tambourine playing where the crowd enthusiastically joined in and clapped loudly.

Joseph Hashem, the founder and director of the group, started the show by praising Jordan, King Hussein, Queen Noor and the government. There were interjections of 'nam' (yes) and cheers from the crowd as he spoke.

Jordan was described as a crown with the King as its jewel and the name of the Queen, Noor, was used cleverly to describe the light (Noor meaning light in Arabic) that is spread over the country by the Queen. The glory of King

Hussein was likened to a sun, and his strength to rocks.

Having captivated the crowd, the members of the group — Joseph Hashem, Zein Shaeb, Elias Khaleh and Hanna Farrah — were introduced. This was done by each member talking in verse about the other, mentioning their faults and at the same time twisting the words to compliment themselves.

A barrage of insults about each other were disguised under a veil of wit and respect together with admiration. Metaphors of electricity and magnetism were used to represent the forces between them and as symbols of power.

One could feel the crowd taking sides with the individual speakers and this was openly shown during the chorus intervals when the audience came alive with applause, singing and even dancing. Their interest was held by the rapid changes in the repertoire, the sharp humour and an apprehension that a comment from the group might suddenly be thrown at a member of the audience.

The show proceeded with referrals back to the beauty of Jordan, the generosity of its people and the joy within the group to be amongst their friends and brothers. The festival was highly praised and the group said that they brought their poetry as a gift to the people of Jordan.

Mention was made to the situation in Lebanon by describing

the grandeur of the landscape and stating that the cedar trees, the symbol on the Lebanese flag, would always remain, whatever happened. The group are non-factional and related to politics by saying that they were deceived whilst asleep, that there were many 'presidents' in Lebanon and that the people should defend their country with both hands and not differentiate between left and right.

Romance and emotion were the last subjects discussed when the radiance and sublimity of an unnamed woman were described. Her great beauty came across using similes such as the moon and the stars, the narration leading back to the splendour of Jordan, 'a free land which the sun never leaves'.

This ended the programme which had clearly shown the diversity and versatility of the group in addition to evoking feelings of patriotism, sympathy, love and delight from the audience.

Zaghlul Damur drew on a wide range of subjects, from the literary to the vulgar, and it is unfortunate that I missed much of the meaning and subtlety in the translation, where help was provided by Samir Khoury, an usher from the Yarmouk University, and by Ali Jabri who interrupted his painting of the arches to assist.

The Zaghlul Damur group have achieved prominence in Lebanon



The Zaghlul Damur poets, who have been entertaining audiences at the Jerash Festival, are from left to right Hana Farrah, Elias Khaleh, Zein Shaeb and Joseph Hashem

where they contribute weekly in a television show and stage special performances on festive occasions. In an interview with the Jordan Times Joseph Hashem said that he started writing and narrating poetry at 9 years old and established the group to promote this individual style unknown in Europe and the West.

The mode is almost like a Mediaeval poetry duel with the participants arguing their case as lawyers and using related euphemisms to highlight their point. Their shows are improvised depending on how the debate is pro-

ceeding, and there are also frequent cross-references and subject changes which firmly hold the attention of their audience.

In 1974 the group were awarded a Literary Prize by the Lebanese Government for their work. Mr. Hashem said that the group will be presenting shows on Jordan Television and Radio Jordan during their stay.

Zaghlul Damur can be seen at the Jerash Festival on Friday, August 19th at 5.00 p.m. and also on Saturday, August 20th at 10.00 p.m. Both presentations will be at the Artemis Steps.

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Maghreb Arabs making moves towards unity

By Alex Kirby

ALGIERS — There is growing speculation in several North African capitals that the next few months may see some progress towards realising the age-old dream of unity for the Maghreb, or the 'Arab West'.

And if the flurry of diplomatic visits is any guide, then certainly something is afoot.

Within the past few weeks, Colonel Qadhafi of Libya has visited Morocco, Algeria, and Mauritania, and Algeria has dispatched emissaries to Tunisia and Mauritania, taking messages from President Chadli to their respective leaders.

The adviser to King Hassan of Morocco, Ahmad Reda Guedira, has visited Libya, and an his way home called on both the Tunisian and Algerian presidents. And the latest word from Tunis is that a sen-

ior Libyan official has been there to prepare for a visit by Col. Qadhafi.

That visit has just been postponed, but 12 Tunisian ministers — half of President Bourguiba's government — were in Tripoli for talks last month.

The war in Chad, and Libyan involvement there, has undoubtedly complicated the situation. But the expectation here is that Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Mauritania will take part in a summit meeting before long, although a Tunisian source points out that there are practical problems in the way of an early summit. The difficulties of security and organisation alone will be considerable.

Much of the running in the quest for unity is being made by Algeria, the largest of the six countries and the most determinedly nonaligned in its foreign policy. There had been hopes of a summit

meeting to Algiers several months ago, but in the event only the Tunisian and the Mauritanian presidents turned up.

But President Chadli has himself travelled to meet both King Hassan and President Bourguiba in the course of this year.

For Algeria, and probably for Tunisia and Morocco, the practical benefits that could flow from some form of Maghreb unity would be considerable. A degree of economic and political harmonisation could mean that North Africa was able to speak with one voice to the European Community.

It would provide a focus of unity for the developing countries of the South in their attempts to pursue a dialogue with the rich North.

Within the six countries themselves, it could facilitate trade and commerce. Algeria is keen to expand its tourist trade, but it would prefer if possible to attract tourists from other Arab countries, something which would be much easier within a unified Maghreb.

Yet there are severe difficulties in the way of unity which derive from the very different nature of the countries involved. Algeria is a highly centralised 'socialist' state keeping a wary distance from both superpowers.

Tunisia, and perhaps even more Morocco, are firmly pro-Western societies, economically liberal, and both ruled by individuals who, in very different ways, exert an influence wholly out of keeping with Algeria's reliance on the party and the system.

Financially, too, any union would cause severe strain, as it is hard to see how it could take place without an alteration in the unrealistic exchange rate on the Algerian dinar. Monetary integration would require a currency realignment that might call into question the system of state control. Libya is a recent convert to the

cause of Maghreb unity — so recent, in fact, that there are suspicions that Col. Qadhafi's enthusiasm masks a fear of being left out in the cold if unity does seem to be in the offing.

He has proposed numerous schemes in the past for uniting Libya with its neighbours notably Tunisia and Algeria, but the schemes have been short on detail. The colonel has appeared to believe that a mere declaration of union is enough to establish it.

Now he proclaims himself in favour of Maghreb unity as a step on the way towards the unity of all Arabs.

Mauretania's poverty probably means that it could only gain from closer links, and it would be unlikely to resist them.

The immediate obstacle to any prospect of unity is the conflict raging in the sixth Maghreb member, the Western Sahara. Morocco contends that it is part of its own territory, and disputes the legitimacy of the group fighting for independence, the Polisario Front, whom King Hassan dismissed last month as mercenaries.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in June came up with a formula which looked at one stage like offering a solution to the eight-year war. Direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario, and the holding of a referendum in the territory by end of this year.

But the king has said that, whatever the outcome of the referendum, nothing is going to force him to hand the Western Sahara to the Polisario.

Algeria and Libya, meanwhile, continue to be the Front's main backers, even though they both express support for the OAU resolution.

If the war continues, it is hard to see how talk of Maghreb unity can be anything more than a nod in the direction of a still distant future. — The Guardian

New mentality in Iran?

THE COMMANDER of Iran's ground forces, Col. Ali Sayyad Shirazi, was Monday quoted as saying Iran's latest Gulf war offensives would be the last stage of the three-year-old war with Iraq. He did not elaborate on his statement, but, with the knowledge that Iran can in no way achieve military victory over Iraq, we will assume that Col. Shirazi is telling us that Iran is finally coming to its senses and ruling out ending the Gulf war through military means.

This statement, if our assumption is correct, could be the first step Iran has ever taken, during the last three years, to end the needless war, Iraq, for more than a year now, has been calling for an end to the fighting, but up until now has not received any positive results, due to the stubbornness of Iran's rulers, who put forward such unrealistic terms in the Iraqis that even a defeated country could not accept, much less Iraq which, although exhausted by this long war, is definitely not defeated and can still face any fresh Iranian offensive.

Previously, the government in Tehran turned down several Arab, international and Islamic peace missions, and all this time they could not realise that the Gulf war was and still is hurting Iran, its manpower, economy and natural resources, without achieving anything in return. They insisted on fighting and causing a lot of suffering and bloodshed to their people and their neighbours, with an Iranian victory in the battlefield beyond their grasp.

Perhaps Iran needs a military man, like Col. Shirazi or any other, to open the minds and eyes of the Tehran leaders that the continuation of a useless war with its Arab neighbour will not result in a victory for Iran.

It is time Iran realised that there are no objectives to be gained by continuing a war that is causing a lot of suffering and bloodshed, and nothing else, to both sides everyday.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Europe's debt to Palestine

IN HIS meeting Monday with the West German parliamentary delegation, King Hussein stressed the importance of the European role in finding a just solution to the Palestine problem. He made it clear that a solution to this problem would not doubt promote the cause of peace in the whole Middle East region. It is a well known fact that European colonialism in this region had created the atmosphere for the emergence of the present problems. Had it not been for European colonialism, the Zionists would not have been able to achieve any of their successes and would not have usurped Palestine and evicted its inhabitants. King Hussein was careful to remind the German parliamentarians of this fact and of Europe's responsibility and duty towards this region and its people.

The Europeans had thought that they could easily solve the problem of European Jewry by creating new sufferings and another more tragic problem in Palestine and the Arab World.

They later thought that giving the U.S. a free hand to try to solve the new problem would free them from the responsibility of the problem which they had created. The facts have proved that the U.S. is concerned only in protecting its own interests, and is not in the game of solving the real problem or doing justice to the Palestinians. U.S. interests conflict with European interests in this region and therefore the European nations should be more independent minded. It seems to us that the European countries are either unable to rid themselves from U.S. domination or are unwilling to absolve themselves from the sufferings and the tragedy which they have created in the Middle East.

Al Dustour: Time for a new role

THE HEAD of the visiting West German parliamentary delegation touched the core of the problem when he said Monday that the current situation in the Middle East region threatens world peace in general and Europe in particular. Moreover he said Europe should play an effective role in solving the issue. But these words contradict the role Europe is currently playing and conflict with its policy on this region's problems. Europe has been to date satisfied with statements warning of the danger of war in the area and has offered only lip-service to the Palestinians. Over the past few years there have been changes in European governments which have run simultaneously with a gradual retreat from the Middle East issue by the European nations. The Middle East has become only a secondary issue. In 1973 and in several years afterwards this was not the case because Europe, then placed the Middle East question on the top of the list of its priorities. The retreat of Europe from its earlier stand has left the arena totally open to the superpowers with its consequent negative effects. Europe must not be totally indifferent to the events in the region. Its peoples and governments should do something constructive to end the sufferings of the Palestinian and Lebanese people, as statements of regret are not enough. The Europeans should play a more constructive role towards ending the region's problems and by doing so they can guarantee their own interests in our region as well.

Sawt Al Shaab: Deep-seated problems

IT SEEMS that some Israeli leaders have come to realise that the real dangers that threaten the Zionist state result from the aggressive policies that had been adopted by its successive governments. The current economic difficulties which Israel faces and the announced cuts in defence expenditure reflect the deep problems the Zionist state is facing on the domestic front. One of the opposition leaders has been quoted as saying recently that when the Jews were sent to Israel they had been sold the idea of coming as pioneers in industry and agriculture, but the Israelis found themselves only the best paratroopers and pilots.

The opposition in Israel now asks itself the question how can Israel tackle its economic problems if the \$10 million it receives daily are not enough to help it achieve this goal? The opposition and many other Israelis realise that the long war Israel has waged against the Arabs, the transformation of their state into an arsenal of American weaponry and Israel's current aggressive policies towards the Palestinians and the Arab states has not brought them nearer to peace. The costly wars, the military campaigns and the misconduct of Israel's leaders have all contributed to the pitiful economic situation Israel faces today.

Reagan seeks Mexican mediation on C. America

By Ralph Harris

Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan met Mexican President Miguel De La Madrid Hurtado on Sunday to explore possible new moves aimed at easing tensions in Central America and scaling down an unprecedented U.S. military presence there.

De La Madrid is critical of Mr. Reagan's policy in the region. He supports the Sandinistas in Nicaragua and recognises leftist guerrillas in El Salvador as a legitimate political force.

But, along with leaders of Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, the 'Contadora group', he has been given the green light by Mr. Reagan to try to end the confrontation between the United States and the leftist Cuban and Nicaraguan governments over Central America.

U.S. officials see the talks to the small seaside resort of La Paz, Mexico, as an opportunity to review recent events, including U.S. naval and land manoeuvres in Honduras, the largest ever in Central America, but say they do not expect a breakthrough.

Mr. Reagan's seven-hour visit to Mexico, at the start of his three-week working vacation in California, also dealt with progress Mexico has made in overcoming its year-old financial crisis and with bilateral immigration and trade disputes.

U.S. officials say Mr. Reagan is determined to continue to help El Salvador and other countries resist what he views as Communist subversion but is ready to consider genuine peace moves from Nicaragua and Cuba.

Mr. Reagan has ordered 19 warships to conduct exercises off the coast of Nicaragua and some 5,000 combat troops to conduct manoeuvres in neighbouring Honduras.

The military moves have prompted concern in Latin America and in Congress that Mr. Reagan is preparing a blockade or quarantine of Nicaragua, to stop alleged shipments of Soviet arms there for transshipment to El Salvador.

Mr. Reagan has called the exercises routine, while saying they are aimed in part at modifying the Sandinista behaviour.

The centre-piece of his talks with De La Madrid was last month's peace plan by the Contadora countries, calling for the removal of all foreign forces and bases from Central America, a weapons freeze, demilitarised zones and international supervision of tense borders.

Announcement of the Contadora plan was followed by peace overtures from Nicaragua and Cuba.

Nicaragua said it was willing to enter into regional negotiations and proposed a non-aggression pact with Honduras, an end to all arms supplies to El Salvador, and an end to foreign intervention in internal conflicts in Central America.

Mr. Reagan voiced cautious optimism about Nicaragua's move, as he did when Cuban President Fidel Castro said recently that he would end military aid to Nicaragua if an accord were reached for all countries to stop sending arms and advisers in the region.

Mr. Reagan, who is battling Congress over cuts in requests for increased U.S. military aid to El Salvador, has refused to enter into direct negotiations with Cuba and Nicaragua.

He is also insisting that any agreements reached through the Contadora countries must be verified, that democratic institutions must be established in Marxist countries in Central America, and that the Organisation of American States (OAS) is the 'appropriate mechanism' to guarantee peace.

Mr. Reagan, who recently appointed former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as chairman of a bipartisan commission on Central America, will go to Mexico after suffering a number of setbacks to his policy.

These include the proposed Congressional cuts in additional military aid for El Salvador, a vote by the House of Representatives to cut off covert aid to anti-Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua, and public opinion polls showing a majority of Americans fear Mr. Reagan is dragging them into a Vietnam-style war in Latin America.

Differences between the United States and Mexico on Central America and also on some bilateral problems were evident when Secretary of State George Shultz visited Mexico in April.

The United States believes Mexico has succeeded in putting into effect austerity measures imposed on it by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a condition for granting a \$3.9 billion emergency loan last year.

The loan, accompanied by loans of \$2.8 billion from the United States, was crucial in helping tide Mexico over when it faced default on its \$40-billion foreign debt as a result of a big drop in its oil exports and devaluations of the peso.

But the Reagan administration, although still concerned over Mexico's financial position, has remained silent on whether it intends to provide the country with further help.

Mr. Reagan and De La Madrid are also expected to discuss the perennial problem of the flood of illegal Mexican immigrants to the United States.

The Mexican government has traditionally viewed illegal immigration as a safety valve that reduces the risk of political convulsions arising from poverty and

ends to provide the country with further help.

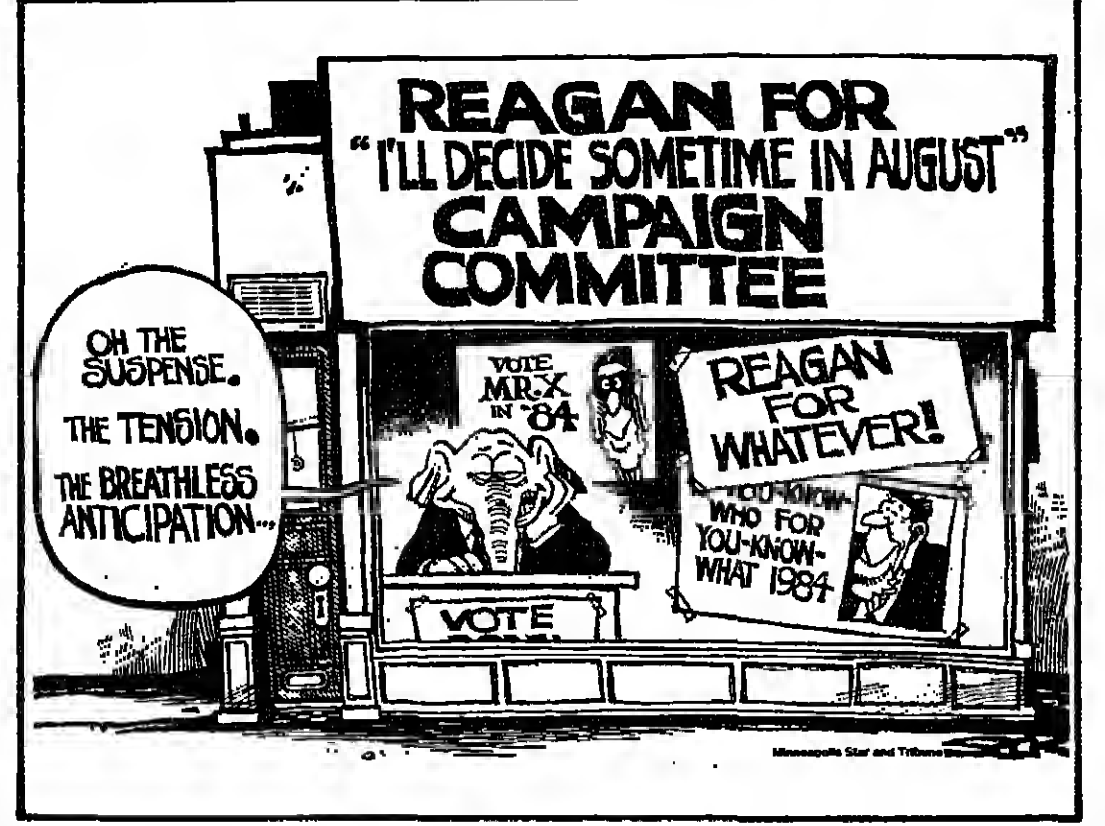
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The Mexican government has traditionally viewed illegal immigration as a safety valve that reduces the risk of political convulsions arising from poverty and

a fast-growing population faced with a lack of jobs.

Trade between Mexico and the United States has also produced growing problems.

The conservative Reagan administration, which favours free enterprise, is concerned about Mexican subsidies for some of its exports, while Mexico is desperately seeking larger market in the United States.



Belgium's economic crisis worsening

By Stephen Nisbet

Reuter

BRUSSELS — Belgium's centre-right government has weathered its toughest test of unity but political pressures are likely to mount again in the autumn.

Decisions on next year's budget and on the future of the troubled Cockerill-Sambre Steel Company stretched the capacity of the four-party coalition to bridge deep policy differences.

Prime Minister Wilfried Martens, now recovering in hospital after heart surgery, is given credit in the Belgian press for helping to reconcile the conflicting demands of his colleagues.

The financial daily L'Echo De La Bourse expressed concern that Mr. Martens' temporary absence could make strains between Flemish and French-speaking ministers or between Social Christians and Liberals harder to settle.

But the outcome of the ministerial steel and budget talks, described by one participant as the hardest in his life, have increased optimism in the business community that the 20-month-old government might complete its four-year term.

The talks, completed just before Mr. Martens entered hospital

last week, overcome divisions on linguistic lines over who should bail out Cockerill-Sambre, and ideological differences over who should suffer most from national budget austerity.

The resulting agreements featured compromises, to Cockerill's case of typically Belgian complexity, that allowed all sides within the government to claim victory.

The Flemish parties, tired of shovelling money into the leaky flagship of French-speaking Wallonia's heavy industry, boasted that all Cockerill's new financing needs would have to be met by Wallonians.

The French-speaking parties retorted that Wallonia was actually ahead because it got more than Flanders from the total national share of death duties earmarked for aid to industry.

The budget hit the pockets of employers, workers and those receiving social security payments, but not had enough to bring much improvement to the country's budget deficit.

The deficit is swollen by high interest payments on government debt and by the cost of dole benefit to a record \$11,000, or 12.3 per cent of the work force, unemployed.

The government's policies of encouraging private investment and restraining pay rises have helped to boost Belgium's industry's competitiveness, rein in inflation and reduce the current account deficit of the balance of payments.

But the government shied away from making expenditure cuts on the scale needed to bring the budget deficit under control, a fact which bankers say will bring down the Belgian franc on foreign exchange markets.

Next year's projected deficit of just over 500 billion francs (\$10 billion) is the equivalent of 11.5 per cent of gross domestic product, far above the 1985 target of seven per cent needed to match the average elsewhere in Europe.

Opposition and trade union criticism of the budget has focused on a scheme for a tax amnesty for Belgians who repatriate savings held secretly abroad in order to invest them in building or job creation projects at home.

Bankers fear that the hostility of Flemish Socialists to this plan will make investors reluctant to repatriate money, lest the Socialists try to lift the tax immunity retrospectively when they next come to power.

Details of the budget have to be finalised in the autumn but the

government's trickiest moments are likely to come in talks with the trade unions on how to cut Cockerill-Sambre's work force of 22,000 by one-third.

Employment Minister Michel Hansenne has suggested minimising mass redundancies through early retirement, voluntary repatriation bonuses for some foreign workers and lay-offs of sub-standard employees.

The Wallonian steel industry work force has a reputation for militancy and ministers will remember that Cockerill-Sambre's problems caused the downfall of Belgium's last government.

But the Martens coalition is hoping the steelmen have finally realised the grim economic state of their industry.

Mr. Martens can point to the European Community Commission order to Belgium and other member states to cut steel-making capacity to eliminate subsidies by 1986 as proof that control of the problem is now partly out of the domestic arena.

Community Industry Commissioner Eulene Davignon, a Belgian, has also stressed that any collapse of the community's plan to rationalise the steel industry would have dire consequences for small export-dependent countries like Belgium.

Industry sources say the Cockerill workers lack the unity which has been their strength at times in the past. Liege and Charleroi, the two main Wallonian steel centres, are each trying to convince the government that the other should bear the brunt of plant closures.

Moreover, the Christian Trade Union Movement, linked with the governing Social Christian parties, has avoided forming a common front with the Socialist Trade Union Federation.

One banker said that deradicalisation of the Socialist Party itself made it likely that opposition to the government's budget and steel plans would ultimately be ineffective.

"Socialist leaders would rather the centre-right took the unpopular decisions that have to be made," he said.

Tokyo, Seoul revise long-aged enmities

By Toshio Kojima

Reuter

TOKYO — Relations between Japan and South Korea are improving after nearly a century of animosity, which became a crisis 10 years ago when South Korea's leading dissident was abducted from his Tokyo exile.

This year Japan's new prime minister, Yasuhiro Nakasone, broke with tradition by making his first overseas visit to South Korea instead of the United States — the country's major ally. And South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan has a standing invitation to visit Japan.

One Japanese diplomat, while noting that long-standing problems remained, described relations between the two industrial Asian neighbours as "the smoothest ever seen".

South Korea has long been cool towards the Japanese for the way they colonised the country earlier in the century but relations plunged in 1973 when leading South Korean dissident Kim Dae-Jung was kidnapped from his Tokyo hotel.

He was seized by South Korean agents but reappeared days later bruised and blindfolded outside his home in Seoul, the South Korean capital.

Japan was furious, registered a strong protest and relentlessly pursued the question of Mr. Kim's welfare thereafter.

Mr. Kim, a bitter opponent of the then South Korean president, Park Chung-Hee, was jailed in 1976 for demonstrating in support of a restoration of democracy.

Mr. Park was killed by his security chief in 1979 and in 1980 after student riots erupted over martial law. Mr. Kim was charged with conspiring to overthrow the succeeding military government.

He was sentenced to death and the Japanese government instantly expressed "serious concern" and warned Seoul that its policies towards its former colony,

which included a large potential aid programme, could be changed. Public rallies in support of Mr. Kim also took place in Tokyo.

In March last year Mr. Kim's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment but the following December he was transferred from prison to hospital and a few days later, apparently as a result of quiet diplomacy by the Reagan administration, put on a plane to United States where he now lives.

Relations worsened last year when South Korea and China led Southeast Asian nations in accusing Japan of re-writing history textbooks to gloss over Japanese military excesses before and during World War II. Japan backed off, assuring South Korea it would revise school history books on its colonial and wartime history.

But Mr. Nakasone's South Korean visit this year broke the ice and relations are on the upturn.

During the visit he pledged \$1.85 billion in official credits and \$2.15 billion in loans from the Export-Import Bank of Japan, over a seven-year period.

Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said Japan and South Korea will resume regular joint cabinet meetings in Tokyo on August 29 and 30, to discuss international and bilateral issues, the first such meeting since September 1981.

Diplomatic channels are alive with discussions about a possible state visit to Japan by Chun Doo-Hwan, which would be the first ever to Japan by a Korean head of state.

Last week a South Korean government spokesman said Mr. Chun had a standing invitation to visit Tokyo but it would be difficult for him to make it this year because of a full programme which included a visit by President Reagan to South Korea in November.

Meanwhile Japan has disbanded a special police unit which was created 10 years ago to investigate Mr. Kim's abduction because people involved were no longer in Japan.



Israelis building new defence line

By David Rogers
Reuters

BASRI, South Lebanon (R) — As Israel prepares to pull back its forces, this sleepy predominantly Christian village, perched halfway up a steep valley, suddenly finds itself on Lebanon's latest front line.

On the rocky heights above, bulldozers are clearing a position that will give Israeli troops a commanding view of the terrain to the north which they are preparing to evacuate.

Below, children chase frogs through the muddy shallows of the Basri River, which for most of the year is little more than a sluggish stream.

The narrow bridge over the Basri, now unguarded, will soon be a frontier of sorts, a crossing point between central Lebanon and the Israeli-controlled south.

Israel began work on its new 113 kilometre "defence line" a week ago. To cut casualties, it plans to withdraw troops from the Beirut area, the Shouf mountains and the Beirut-Damascus road and redeploy behind the "Awali line" in South Lebanon.

Earth-moving juggernauts are levelling ground at a string of pos-

itions. But along much of the line, Israeli officers say they will be relying on natural barriers to hinder attempts to infiltrate.

The line follows the Awali River, which trickles into the Mediterranean just north of the city of Sidon. A river of many names — inland it becomes the Basri or Barukh River — the Awali cuts through canyons and deep valleys along its narrow, twisting course.

Israeli officers repeatedly assured foreign correspondents on a tour of the line that there were at present no plans to cut South Lebanon off physically from the rest of the country.

Israeli newspapers have reported that electric fences will be put up in places. The officers said they had no confirmation of this and security measures would eventually depend on how serious a threat the commandos pose.

"After redeploying, we won't bother them (Palestinian commandos), if they don't bother us," an Israeli officer said.

As part of the redeployment operation, estimated to cost \$30 million, the Israelis say they will build 45 kilometres of new road and upgrade 50 kilometres of existing road.

Fortified positions, some of

them protected by 20-centimetre (eight-inch) thick prefabricated concrete walls, will be built along the line. Mobile units will patrol the land between.

Some of the positions will be temporary lookout posts. Others will be more permanent fortresses insulated against the winter, the officers said.

Brigadier Yehuda Cohen, commander of the engineering corps, said the line should be ready within one and a half months. Israeli ministers have spoken of redeploying by November but a final timetable has not been announced.

Israel will be evacuating 600 square kilometres the army says, and keeping control over 2,800 square kilometres — compared to the 4,900 square kilometres of Lebanese territory occupied by Syrian forces.

The Beirut government, whose forces must help fill the vacuum left by the Israelis, has voiced fears that the pullback will lead to a permanent partition of Lebanon into Israeli and Syrian sectors.

Israel says it is the first phase of a total withdrawal from Lebanon but that its troops will remain in the south until Syrian and Palestinian forces leave the country.

To maintain leverage on Damascus, Israeli forces are staying in the eastern Bekaa Valley within artillery range of the Syrian capital, and are only pulling back several kilometres from the Beirut-Damascus Road.

"We will be close enough to block the road whenever we want to," one officer told reporters.

With the Lebanese winter two months away, the Israelis are targeting the pot-holed roads leading from the border. Twisting mountain lanes are being widened and straightened for tank transporters.

After a rash of commando attacks last month, security has been tightened. Israeli machinegun nests sit on the flat roofs in some Shi'ite villages. In others, the pro-Israeli militia of Saad Haddad guard roadblocks with old, grey-painted Sherman tanks.

Israeli troops, who used to travel in buses, now ride in "safari" transports — open-sided trucks — sitting back-to-back, helmets on and automatic rifles jutting out.

Army officers acknowledge they face more hostility from local residents than in the early days of the June 1982 invasion. "The prime objective of redeployment is to make it safer for our men," one added.

Diverting Mediterranean waters to Egyptian desert still feasible

By Robert McDonald

CAIRO — A grand design to divert the Mediterranean into the heart of the Egyptian desert to produce electricity is "technically feasible" according to Swedish engineers who have recently completed a study. But the cost, at up to \$5 billion, could prove prohibitive.

The scheme envisages digging a canal from the Mediterranean coast to the Qattara Depression in the middle of the desert some 330 kilometres west of Cairo. The Depression is 145 metres below sea level in places — the lowest point in Africa — and the head created by the drop could be used for hydropower generation.

Up to 1,600 MW of power would be installed producing some 4.5 TWh (11 billion KW) a year. The electricity could be used for industrialisation or land reclamation. The study has been conducted by Stockholm-based consulting engineers Sweco under a technical co-operation agreement between the Egyptian and Swedish governments.

A company spokesman said: "The subsoil conditions are what we thought they were. We could dig. It's only a money problem." He said Sweco had done cost estimates and benefits analysis but did not yet have final figures. The report will be ready later this year.

The concept was first mooted during World War I by a professor from Berlin University. Since then there have been 12 different generating schemes and eight proposed canal routes. The most comprehensive was a report concluded in 1975 by West German consultants Lahmeyer. It proposed digging the canal by controlled nuclear explosion.

In making this suggestion Lahmeyer followed the proposals of a German academic, Professor Friedrich Bassler, who studied the area in the late 60s and reported in 1973 that the nuclear approach was the most cost-effective method.

But the Qattara Hydro and Renewable Energies Projects Authority queried the judgment on both environmental and political grounds. And Dr. Bassler also did a volte-face at the 1980 World Energy Conference, saying nuclear excavation was "against environmental requirements."

The late Egyptian President, Anwar Sadat, was nevertheless determined that the project should proceed and in 1981 the Swedish Commission for Technical Co-operation signed an aid agreement covering the cost of a feasibility study for a canal excavated by conventional means.

Their proposal foresees a 45 kilometre canal from the coast, then three massive tunnels pushed 9 kilometres through higher ground. This would be delicate excavation work because the rock is reported to be "very weak, nearly sand".

Another canal some 40 kilometres long would carry the flow to the power station near the junction with the depression. In plan-

ces the canal would be 350 metres wide and up to 120 metres deep.

The flow during the time the depression was filling would be 1,200 cubic metres a second in the head race and 3,600 cubic metres a second in the tail race. The cost of reinforcing the tail race section to take such volumes of water would present another major difficulty.

It is estimated that it would take up to 15 years to fill the depression to a level where a lake some 14,000 square kilometres was formed. Then a "stable-state" flow of 750 cubic metres a second could be established equivalent to the amount of evaporation from the lake's surface.

Officials of the World Bank have expressed serious concern about the possible adverse effects on the environment by the creation of such a vast body of salt water so far inland.

But the Lahmeyer report argued that it would have no significant effect on the weather of the agriculturally vital Nile Valley which is downwind. Nor, according to the projects authority, would it affect existing fresh water reservoirs.

Problems of salt corrosion on turbines and a silting in the depression require further consideration. The Lahmeyer report suggested that a conventionally dug channel some 75 kilometres long would cost nearly \$8.5 billion. The Sweco spokesman declined to set figures but intimated a price in the range of \$5 billion depending upon when construction began. The lower price would be because of a different routing. If work started immediately, the project would not be finished much before the end of the century.

Egypt currently gets about two-thirds of its power from the Aswan High Dam and another dam about 61 kilometres downstream, built at the turn of the century and currently being heightened for the third time to allow capacity to be increased to 270 MW. Sweco is involved in this project as well.

About 75 per cent of the country's villages are electrified but agricultural production still lags behind population growth estimated to climb to 70 million by the end of the century. The country has reclaimed about 365,000

hectares of desert during the past 20 years and plans to make another 200,000 hectares fertile by the middle of this decade. The target by the year 2000 is 1,150,000 hectares.

Cheap power from Qattara could be vital in carrying out this plan. It could also fuel new population centres to ease the pressure on overburdened Cairo.

Some power planners believed the engineering is too speculative to merit the massive investment and argue in favour of conventional thermal power stations fired with fuel imported under a new peaceful nuclear power co-operation agreement with Canada.

Cynics have suggested that the impetus for the project has gone with the death of President Sadat who had his eye on a Lake Nasser to match the Lake Nasser behind the High Dam.

The very scale of the investment certainly places a question mark over the future of the project given the state of the Egyptian economy.

Financial Times news feature

Egypt faces bleak prospects in solving housing problems

By Fouad Gawhari
Reuters

CAIRO — Egypt is giving high priority to solving its acute housing problem over the next five years to reduce the millions who are either homeless or need better accommodation.

Rating the housing crisis next in importance to boosting the nation's food output, the government has earmarked 4.6 billion pounds (\$5.5 billion) for housing projects in the current five-year development plan to 1987.

Housing Ministry officials said the scheme envisages the construction of 200,000 housing units every year, mainly for low income groups, who have been hit by the shortage.

But in view of Egypt's rapid

population growth, one million every 10 months, housing experts believe prospects of solving the housing problem are bleak.

They said Egypt's population, currently 45 million, will reach 69.5 million by the year 2000 when about 4.3 million housing units will be needed, but at the present pace of development only 47 per cent of these will be available.

Egypt's housing shortage has resulted in skyrocketing real estate prices beyond the reach of about 80 per cent of those looking for accommodation.

The situation is worst in densely populated cities, including Cairo and Alexandria, where the price of a moderate three-room flat has reached 30,000 pounds (\$36,000) and luxury one 70,000 pounds (\$84,000).

Chances of finding an unfurnished flat for rent are almost nil, as landlords prefer to lease their property with furniture at marked-up prices, currently 2,000 pounds (\$2,400) a month for a four-room apartment in a Cairo suburb.

The 20-year-old problem has had adverse social effects including wrecked marriages, particularly in overcrowded areas where up to five people share a single room.

The shortage has also contributed to the brain drain as hundreds of thousands of badly-needed experts and skilled workers have emigrated to get better housing in addition to higher pay.

A recent study by the Egyptian advisory council on housing showed that government investment in housing projects has fallen in recent years. In the 1960s more than 12 per cent of total invest-

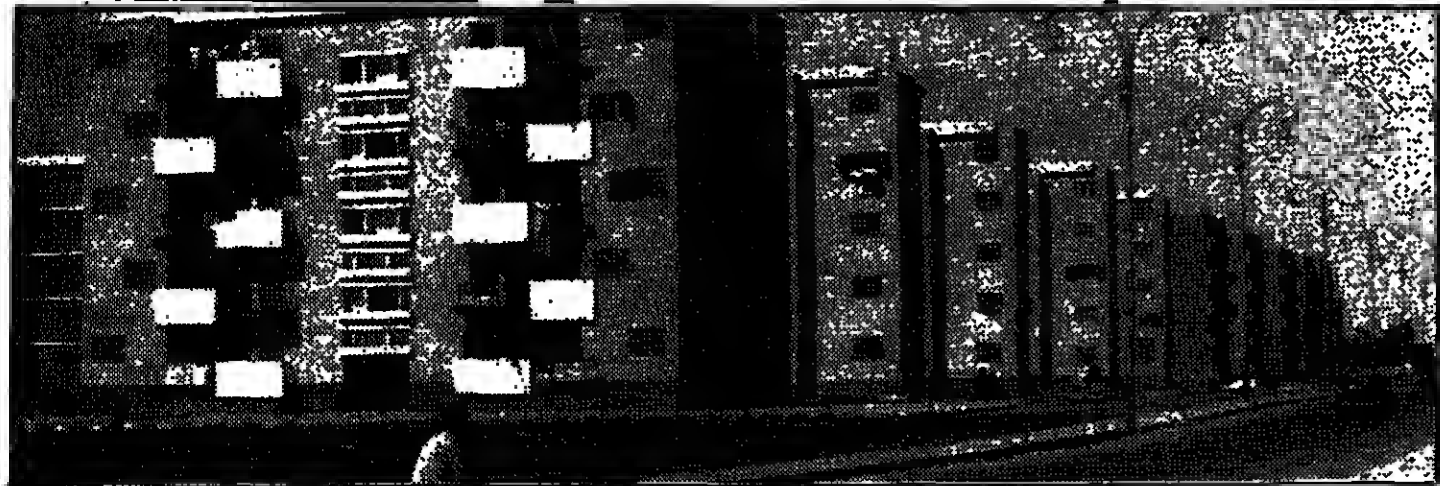
ments was allocated to housing, but in 1973 this dropped to 8.8 per cent and in 1979 to 5.3 per cent.

The study was critical of the trend towards building expensive apartments rather than economy units which constitute 80 per cent of the country's housing needs.

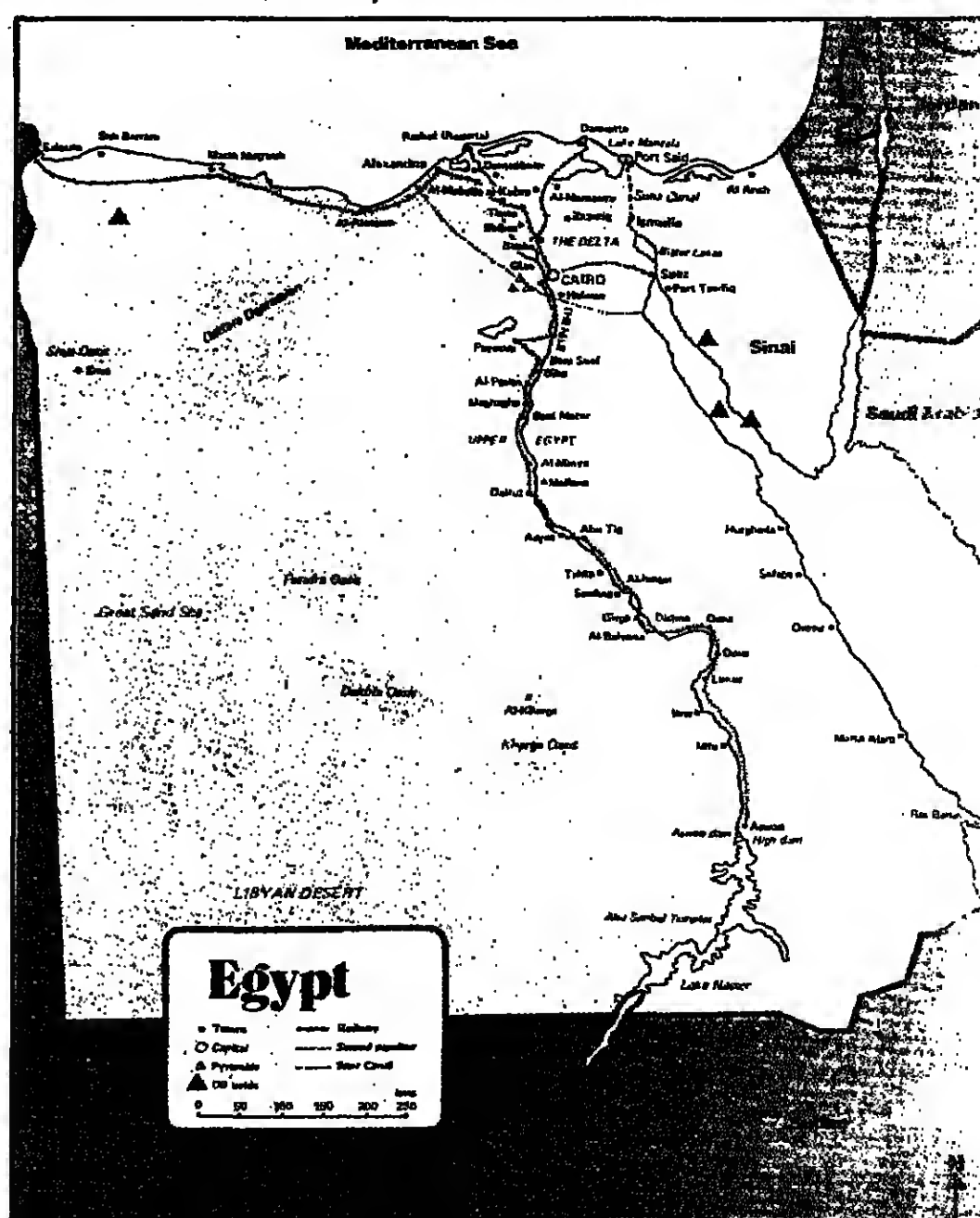
Responding to such criticism, the government has recently imposed a moratorium on building luxury flats and announced it will provide assistance, such as loans at low interest rates, for constructing cheaper dwellings.

New cement plants are being built, with U.S. and French help, to raise production to 15 million tonnes annually from four million.

Construction and Housing Minister Hassaballah Kafrawi recently told reporters an ambitious scheme for building eight new towns in the desert will be launched shortly.



Egypt's new scheme envisages the construction of 200,000 housing units every year (J.T. file-photo)



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SPORTS

Australia II beats Victory 83

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — Australia II beat the British yacht Victory 83 by one minute 54 seconds Tuesday after trailing for the first two hours of her race to take the lead in the America's Cup challenge semi-finals.

Victory 83 seemed on the way to a big upset over Australia II, now the only unbeaten yacht with a 3-0 record, but was caught on the wrong side of two big wind shifts.

In the other race on Rhode Island Sound, the Italian boat Azzurra overcame an early lead by Canada 1 and eventually won by eight minutes and 53 seconds, the widest margin of victory for any challenging yacht.

Australia II has been all but unbeatable in the summer's races.

but protests over its controversial winged keel claim that it might not be a legal 12-metre boat.

It hit the starting line too early on Tuesday and was 45 seconds behind the British boat when it restarted. Victory 83 stretched the lead to nearly two minutes at the third mark of the 14.3 mile America's Cup course.

But the first wind shift cost Victory 83 most of the lead and the second shift, on the fifth leg, put the Australian yacht ahead for good.

Canada 1 led by 20 seconds at the first turning mark and was still up by eight seconds at the completion of the first triangle. But on the fourth leg it fell into an area of almost no wind which the Italian boat managed to avoid.

Azzurra led by over four minutes at the fifth mark and, sailing into a fresher breeze first, doubled the margin on the final leg.

Azzurra will race Victory 83 Wednesday and Australia II, the odds-on favourite to win the right to challenge for the cup, will sail against Canada 1.

The final American trials to choose the defending yacht will start Wednesday with defender opposing Courageous. Liberty, the boat tipped to win the American trials, will race Courageous on Wednesday.

The deadline for choosing the defender and challenger for the cup is September 8 and the America's Cup match itself is due to begin on September 13.

Kenyan athletics chief wants probe into games

NAIROBI (R) — Isiah Kiplagat, Secretary of Kenya's Amateur Athletic Association, has called for an official investigation into Kenya's poor showing at the World Championships in Helsinki.

"We have always prided ourselves as a leading athletics nation in Africa and to return home empty-handed is a disgrace," he told reporters on his return from the championships which ended on Sunday.

"Our athletes have shamed us and we must find out why," he said.

He called for an inquiry to examine why Kenyan athletes failed to win a medal after turning in world class times at meetings in West Germany and Hungary before the championships.

Cram to run in European Cup final

LONDON (R) — Steve Cram, Britain's newly crowned world 1,500 metres champion, will compete over this distance in the European Athletics Cup Group 'A' final at Crystal Palace here at the weekend.

The selection of the British team has been based largely on performances in Helsinki. The one surprise is the call-up of Steve Harris for the 5,000 metres.

Harris, the World Student Games gold medal winner, missed out on selection for the World Championships in Helsinki because he did not reach the qualifying standard.

Originally, it was hoped that world 1,500 metres record holder Steve Ovett might run in the 5,000. But he asked not to be considered after finishing a disappointing fourth behind Cram in Helsinki.

Olympic 1000 metres champion Allan Wells will run in both the 1000 and 2000 metres.

15 million Germans members of sports clubs

WIESBADEN (Dd) — Twenty years ago people in the Federal Republic of Germany worked 60 hours a week on average. Now they work just over 40. They now have a fortnight's more holidays with pay, averaging over five weeks a year. So they spend more time and money on leisure activities, especially holidays, books, sport and gardening.

Fifteen million Germans are members of sports clubs. Four and a half million are in soccer clubs, three million in gymnastics clubs and over a million in tennis and rifle clubs. Gymnastics, dancing and horse riding are among the few sports where women are in the majority.

Los Angeles set for spartan Olympics

Paul Taylor

LOS ANGELES — When the people of Los Angeles told the International Olympic Committee (IOC) it would be a "spartan" games, they were not joking. The finances of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles were launched with a \$100 million bill from the back pocket of Mr. Peter Ueberroth, president of the Los Angeles Olympic Organising Committee (LAOOC).

The low cost Olympics have a budget of \$500 million, an eighth of the cost of the Montreal Games in 1976 and an even smaller fraction of the estimated cost of the Moscow Olympics four years ago.

Los Angeles' plans are unique for other reasons too. The 1984 Olympic Games, which start on July 28 next year, will be the first ever to be funded entirely by the private sector. LAOOC, a private non-profit making company set up to plan and run the games, has guaranteed that none of the cost will be borne by taxpayers.

Los Angeles has been trying to re-stage the games ever since it last played host in 1932, but it won the 1984 Olympics only because of a lack of competition and a crucial change in the IOC rules at a time when California's taxpayers were in revolt.

The IOC charter dictates that the games will be awarded to a city responsible for financing and organising the games. In 1978, when the 1984 Olympics were up for bidding, Californian taxpayers had just voted for Proposition 13, which forced tax reductions and passed a separate resolution ruling out public finance for the games.

The only other city bidding against Los Angeles in 1978 was Tehran. So the IOC was forced to relent. "We got the games by default," says Mr. Daniel Greenwood, vice-president of LAOOC.

The agreement was signed on March 1, 1979. Mr. Ueberroth, a dynamic businessman who just missed being selected in the 1956 U.S. Olympic water polo team, was appointed president of LAOOC and charged with planning and running the games on a shoestring budget. He left a \$400,000-a-year job at First Travel Corporation, a California chain of travel agencies which he

had built up over 20 years, to take the \$115,000 post with no staff, no offices and no bank account.

"The first place we tried to get offices were turned down because they did not believe we could afford it," says Mr. Greenwood, who gave up a job at Crocker Bank after 20 years to become LAOOC's vice-president in charge of sponsorships.

The committee set about organising an event which will be watched on television by about 2.5 billion people, over half the world's population. Central to its planning was learning the financial lessons from the Montreal and Moscow games. The Montreal games left the Canadian public with an enormous debt, \$1 billion of which is still unpaid, and the boycotted Moscow games are thought to have cost the Soviet Union \$10 billion to stage.

"We looked at the Moscow and Montreal Olympics and tried to figure out what went wrong," said Mr. Greenwood. "The major item was construction and the basic principle we decided to stick by was 'don't build things'."

Just three new buildings are being put up for the 1984 Olympics. The only building LAOOC has put up itself is its modest \$5 million headquarters. This will be turned over to the University of California at Los Angeles after the event as an administrative building.

The private sector is directly funding the only other construction work. Southland Corporation's 7-Eleven stores group is financing a velodrome for cycling events, and McDonald's, the food group, is building a new swimming and diving pool. Atlantic Richfield, the U.S. oil company, is paying for the refurbishing of Los Angeles's Coliseum built to house the 1932 Olympics.

LAOOC identified three major sources of finance: television contracts, sponsorship and licensing and ticket sales. About half the estimated cost will be covered by the sale of broadcasting rights. LAOOC has signed a \$225 million contract with American Broadcasting Corporation to televise the games in the U.S. and has sold separate television rights to overseas broadcasting groups.

A further \$150 million will come from strictly limited sponsorship and licensing agreements. In contrast to the Lake Placid Winter Games three years ago, which had 381 sponsors, Los Angeles will have a mere 310 to 350.

So far, LAOOC has signed 29 sponsorship agreements worth \$116 million with companies including American Telephone and Telegraph, Arco, General Motors, the Coca-Cola company, International Business Machines, United Airlines, Westinghouse Electric and Xerox.

The basic minimum sponsorship fee is \$4 million, that gives the company the right to be associated with the 1984 Olympics but does not give unlimited rights even to use Sam, the Olympic eagle designed as the mascot by Walt Disney Productions.

LAOOC, concerned not to fall foul of accusations of over-commercialisation, has been a tough bargainer in sponsorship negotiations. As a result the search for suitable sponsors has not always run smoothly. "Sponsors are partners. It is almost like you are marrying them," said Mr. Greenwood.

In one well-publicised split, LAOOC fell out with Eastman Kodak, the U.S. photographic giant, after one and a-half years' negotiations, and accepted Fuji Film, the Japanese photographic company, instead. "The problem



Sam, the eagle, has been selected as the official games mascot

with Eastman was that we were going to the altar with a reluctant bride," said Mr. Greenwood.

The committee has also lined up 33 licensees, three of whom are also sponsors. By July next year LAOOC will have 15 more. These licensees pay a 10 per cent royalty on the goods they sell. Here again, LAOOC has been able to be choosy. It had 3,700 requests for licenses covering 400 different categories of goods, from plastic bags to T-shirts and the ubiquitous "ceramic giftware."

Critics of the spartan Olympics say that the low budget for the games will lead to serious problems, including a shortage of accommodation and severe traffic congestion. LAOOC rejects such criticisms as exaggerated. It says the expected 250,000 visitors, including an estimated 8,000 journalists, will have no difficulty finding accommodation and it believes that traffic congestion will be lessened by park-and-ride schemes.

Mr. Greenwood believes future organisers "may well try to use some of the concepts." He adds: "They would be silly not to." But like other members of LAOOC's 300-strong staff, he doubts that the LA Olympics experiment will be repeated in its entirety.

Financial Times Feature

Wilander struggles in ATP tournament

MASON, Ohio (R) — Fourth-seeded Mats Wilander of Sweden struggled to beat his best friend and compatriot Joachim Nystrom 6-7, 7-5, 6-2 in first round action in the Southern Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Championships here on Monday.

Seeded ahead of Wilander in the competition, the last big professional tournament before the U.S. Open in two weeks' time, are John McEnroe, Ivan Lendl and Jimmy Connors.

Wilander, 18, said after his match he did not like the hard courts here and found it hard to play such a close friend as Nystrom. "He is my toughest opponent, you don't want to win."

Three top 10 players, Guillermo Vilas, Jose-Luis Clerc, both of Argentina, and Yannick Noah of France, were late withdrawals.

Two other Swedes also won on Monday. Hans Simonsson beat Luc Chateau of France 6-4, 6-1 and 19-year-old Thomas Hogstedt beat 36-year-old American veteran Stan Smith 6-2, 7-6.

Sammy Giammalva of the U.S. went through to the second round

went 13th seed Henri Leconte of France retired with a foot injury when trailing 6-4, 2-0.

Other early results included: Eliot Teltscher (U.S.-10) beat Frank Puncak (South Africa) 6-2, 6-4; Tom Aspinall (Czechoslovakia-16) beat Chris Lewis (New Zealand) 6-1, 6-7, 6-4; Tim Mayotte (U.S.) beat John Alexander (Australia) 6-3, 6-4; David Carter (Australia,

beat Scott Davis (U.S.) 6-2, 7-6.

A tournament doctor said Leconte fractured his right foot during his match and was doubtful for the U.S. Open in two weeks' time.

In evening matches, sixth-seeded Jimmy Arnes of the United States beat Casio Vitta of Brazil 6-1, 6-4, and Mel Purcell of the United States defeated Harold Solomon of the United States, the 1981 champion, 7-5, 2-6, 6-3.

Crop of gold for Cuba at Panamerican Games

CARACAS (R) — A crop of gold medals from weightlifting gave Cuba the edge over their perennial rivals the United States on a largely predictable first day at the Panamerican Games here.

Three victories for Juan Fernandez in the flyweight class, including Panamerican records, and three for Aristoteles Soler in bantamweight helped the Cubans to a total of eight golds.

The United States collected

three shooting firsts and one in women's judo but had to settle for second place in the medals table for the time being.

In the team events interest centred on the soccer clash between the two favourites, Argentina and Brazil.

Two superb goals from free kicks gave Brazil a 2-0 victory and virtually assured them of a gold or silver medal. Barring an unlikely victory by Mexico over Brazil, Argentina are out of the running.

The host nation Venezuela had an encouraging start to the games on Monday after months of squabbling, delays and doubts over the organisation. A gold in the 72 kilo women's judo class for the unlikely-named Henry Allinson and another in the men's team pistol, together with four silvers, gave them a comfortable third place in the rankings.



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Inflation in Israel reaches 125%

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's consumer price index rose by 6.3 per cent last month, pushing the annual inflation rate up to 125 per cent, the bureau of statistics announced Monday.

The announcement came as the Israeli cabinet met to discuss a proposed austerity programme aimed at cutting government spending to stem the rampant inflation.

The bureau said last month's index jump, following the June rise of 3.6 per cent, brought total inflation so far this year to 60 per cent.

The rate for the 12-month period ending last July was 126 per cent, the bureau said.

A bureau spokesman said last month's price index rise represented an improvement over the 9.2 per cent rise in July 1982 but was still the second highest July increase ever.

IMF praises Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Talks to increase International Monetary Fund (IMF) credits to Egypt have made progress following changes in its economic policy, the IMF director of Middle East operations said Monday night.

Mr. Abdul Shakour Shaalan, leader of an IMF delegation conducting talks with Egyptian officials, told Reuters: "The talks are making a lot of progress particularly as there are positive changes in Egypt's economic policy."

Mr. Shaalan did not elaborate, but he was apparently referring to government cuts of subsidies by 17 per cent to 1,690 billion Egyptian pounds (\$2,024 billion) in the 1983-84 budget which began on July 1.

The IMF and other bodies have repeatedly advised Egypt to trim its subsidies system in order to improve its economy.

Egypt is seeking higher IMF credit facilities to help bridge a gross deficit in the 1983-84 fiscal year of 5,010 billion pounds (\$6 billion).

Egypt, Iraq agree to boost relations

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Egypt have agreed on a \$35 million exchange of Iraqi sulphur and phosphates in return for Egyptian textiles, official Egyptian sources said Tuesday.

The sources are accompanying Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mr. Mustapha Kamel Said, who is here on the first official visit by a Cairo minister since Iraq cut diplomatic relations with Egypt in 1979.

The Iraqi-Egyptian agreement envisages participation by both countries in international trade fairs in their capitals, and settlement of all economic and financial problems arisen since 1979, including the transfer of all amounts due through the two countries' central banks, the sources said.

They said Iraq's Rafidain Bank and Egyptian banks, particularly the Bank of Alexandria, would facilitate transfers by Egyptians working in Iraq.

Unofficial estimates put the number of Egyptians working in Iraq at over one million.

The sources said Rafidain Bank would open a branch in Cairo next September.

The bank is the only Iraqi bank allowed to handle trade transactions for both the state and private sectors.

The sources also quoted Mr. Said as saying Egypt's trade relations with other Arab states, particularly Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, were beginning to return to pre-1979 levels, adding "no chains ever exist now on Egypt's relations with the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia."

During his six-day visit, which ends Wednesday, Mr. Said met leading cabinet ministers and had talks with First Deputy Premier Taha Yassin Ramadan and President Saddam Hussein.

Habib stresses free trade policies

SEOUL — Mr. Philip Habib, former U.S. ambassador to Korea, stressed recently that the present administration in Washington will remain firmly dedicated to keeping the U.S. market as open as possible.

He said that presently, there is a protectionist trend in the United States. However, this will be short-lived as it is a result of the recession.

"Only the free exchange of goods in conformity with the market will in the long run be able to guarantee healthy and balanced world economic growth," he emphasised.

The ensured sustained growth of two-way trade volume between the United States and East Asia, joint effort to lift trade barriers and nontrade barriers in the part of governments and private-level economic bodies are urgently needed, he said.

He made this and other points while attending a seminar on the political and economic situation in the Pacific region, held at the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI).

Caracas hopes to dispense with IMF aid

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela hopes to reach a rescheduling agreement with its creditor banks without adopting a strict economic programme approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), finance ministry sources said Monday.

The government does not now expect to ask for disbursement of a \$1.1 billion loan from the IMF in 1983, and is instead seeking to obtain approval by the fund of its own economic plan, the sources told Reuters.

Venezuela's creditor banks have been insisting on a strict IMF programme as a condition for accepting the government's proposals to reschedule up to \$18.4 billion in debts falling due in 1983 and 1984.

But Finance Minister Arturo Sosa has told reporters that the main problem with rescheduling negotiations was unpaid interest by public agencies rather than strict economic measures imposed by the IMF.

"The banks would prefer to have an IMF programme, but the indications are that Venezuela does not need money from the fund this year," Mr. Sosa said.

In June Venezuela requested a \$1.1 billion loan from the IMF's compensatory financing facility, meant to help commodity exporting countries overcome balance of payments difficulties. At the same time it asked the banks to refinance \$16.3 billion in foreign debts, about half the total \$34 billion outstanding.

Mr. Sosa last Friday met again in New York with Venezuela's 13-bank advisory committee, which reviewed progress in the government's discussions with the

Poland, Western creditor bankers meet in Vienna

VIENNA (R) — Polish and Western bankers met Tuesday to discuss a proposal from Warsaw's Western creditor banks on rescheduling debts Poland owes them this year, banking sources said.

Bankers in London have said the meeting would probably be the most important of this year's negotiations, although the sources noted it could not take the final decision.

The Western side, consisting of a small expert committee known as the working party, can however reach agreement in principle on the terms of the rescheduling with their Polish partners from the foreign trade bank, Bank Handlowy.

Western banks have proposed that 95 per cent of the \$1.5 billion Poland owes them in principal this year should be rescheduled over 10 years, with a five-year grace period before the principal repayments start.

The terms constitute a concession to Poland, as the proposed

10-year extension compares with the seven years which the banks allowed the country to repay the money it owed them last year.

In exchange, the banks are seeking higher interest rates on the repayments of principal.

This year they are asking for 1 1/2 per cent above the London Inter Bank Offered Rate, one-eighth of a percentage point more than last year.

The London Inter Bank Offered Rate is often used in fixing the interest to be paid by debtor countries.

It fluctuates daily and also varies according to the length of time for which money is borrowed.

The rate for most maturities is currently between 10 and 11 per cent.

Some London bankers have said that by agreeing to attend this meeting, expected to end Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, Poland had effectively accepted the basic terms.

Western banks made the proposal last month and said a further meeting would not be held until Poland replied firmly, although one banker said Poland's reply last Friday had not been as detailed as sought.

If the two sides agree at this meeting, a broader group of Western banks from each main creditor country, known as the national agents, will meet later this month to discuss it.

They will then refer it to Poland's roughly 500 creditor banks, who must ultimately each accept the agreement with the Polish government.

The talks are not connected with the decision in principle by Western governments last month to lift their embargo on rescheduling talks, imposed for the duration of martial law in Poland.

Commercial banks continued to negotiate while martial law was in force.

Andropov wants radical changes

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet leader Mr. Yuri Andropov has said he wants to see radical changes in the economic system before the next five-year plan begins at the end of 1985.

Mr. Andropov, addressing party veterans in Moscow Monday night, said cautious, planned experiments were important and no decisions should be taken in haste, but he made it clear he thought the Soviet economy had failed to move with the times.

Echoing ideas in a paper prepared by economists for a Communist Party forum and indiscreetly leaked to Western journalists two weeks ago, he said too many half-measures had failed to address the root of the problem.

"Now we must make up for what we have lost," Mr. Andropov said.

The Soviet president's comments Monday night followed a flurry of statements on economic change in recent months and Western diplomats in Moscow said that setting a definite time-table for reform reflected a more confident mood.

Mr. Andropov said wide-ranging changes were needed in management and planning "in order to enter the new five-year period, so to say, fully-armed," in other words within two and a half years.

Western observers of the Soviet economy have so far detected little real change, though the scale and extent of the few reform measures introduced to date has been hard to assess.

Again echoing comments in the leaked economic discussion paper, Mr. Andropov said the people's social needs had increased and as a result the entire economic performance had to be improved to meet them.

The discussion paper said the time had passed when the Soviet people could be treated as cogs in a machine as they were under Stalin in the 1930s.

New social awareness meant there was a demand for more developed responsibility, it said.

Official says U.S. cannot lend more through World Bank

TOKYO (R) — The United States cannot commit itself to increasing the amount of cheap money it lends to poor nations through the World Bank, a senior U.S. treasury official said Tuesday.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Timothy McNamara told journalists there was no hope of getting U.S. congressmen to vote more money for other countries when they were cutting spending on domestic programmes.

The World Bank's International Development Agency (IDA) needs more money from the middle of next year to continue its interest-free loans to poor countries.

However, the United States, the biggest donor, says it cannot give more than \$750 million a year.

As other donors tend to follow the U.S. position, the bank is likely to get only \$9 billion for the IDA compared to the \$12 billion received in the three years ending next year.

At a meeting in Tokyo last month to discuss IDA funding, World Bank officials said they needed much more money to serve the growing needs of poor sub-Saharan African states, India and now China, which had become eligible for cheap loans.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed in sluggish trading. The market failed to follow through after Monday's gains after Wall Street stocks ended well below their highs, dealers said.

The F.T. index at 1500 was at 733.3, half a point above Monday's record close but below the high of 735.2 reached at the opening. Better than expected interim results from Unilever pushed its shares 45p higher at 795 after 800, but failed to lift other leaders, with ICI down 6p at 542, dealers said.

Government bonds ended a dull day little changed in long dates. Golds and U.S. shares were mixed.

Short dated government bonds eased by around 1/2 point ahead of Wednesday's tender for the new 10 per cent treasury convertible stock 1986, which dealers said should attract good demand.

Interest in equities was selective, dealers said, with sentiment muted by the absence of U.S. buyers, active in recent weeks, and by the long three-week trading account. Insurers were firm, with Royal up 23p at 556 on a sharp increase in interim profits. In banks Midland was off 22p at 442, trading ex-rights, while its new shares were at 96p after 105p, nil paid.

B.L. extended Monday's gain by 6p at 68. Goldfields of South Africa jumped 55 at 130 1/2 on its final results.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5020/30	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.2335/38	Canadian dollars	
	2.6742/52	West German marks	
	2.9950/60	Dutch guilders	
	3.1485/95	Swiss francs	
	53.58/63	Belgian francs	
	8.0490/0540	French francs	
	1587.00/1588.00	Italian lire	
	244.00/10	Japanese yen	
	7.8675/8725	Swedish crowns	
	7.4575/4625	Norwegian crowns	
	9.6350/6400	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	420.20/420.70	U.S. dollars	

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GITUL

THICH

GROUME

METHEL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: RIGHT

Yesterday's Jumbles: DROOP WHILE MUSLIN TOWARD

Answer: Why the business tycoon rushed off on a much needed vacation—TO SLOW DOWN

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

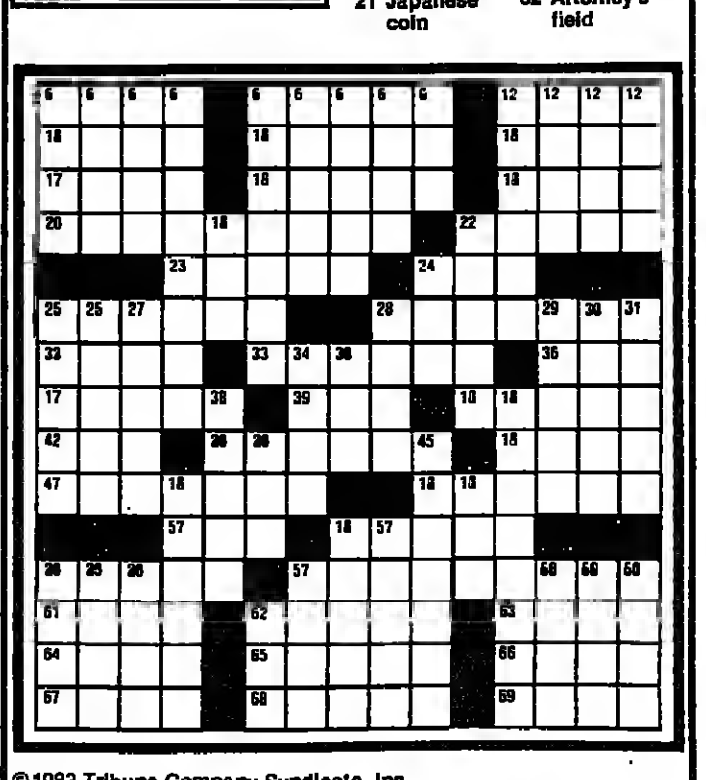


HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword By Melvin Kanworthy

ACROSS

- 1 Chopping tools
- 5 I'll be there
- 10 Cutting tool
- 14 Folk tale
- 15 Animated
- 16 Plunder
- 17 Concerning
- 18 Nose or candle
- 19 Movie Sp.
- 20 Ladder's relative
- 22 Music men
- 23 Like trees
- 24 Write briefly
- 25 Contract
- 28 Is dilettante
- 32 Ungulate
- 33 "My Sister"
- 36 Map abbr.
- 37 Showing oxidation
- 39 British coin, for short
- 40 Meat cut
- 42 Employ
- 43 Poetry form
- 46 Latvian port
- 47 Press with requests
- 49 A Barrymore
- 51 Highway sign
- 52 Elaborate
- 54 Fluid burn
- 57 Strainers
- 61 Wife of Degwood's boss
- 62 Exarion
- 63 Legal paper
- 64 Related
- 65 Herb of the carrot family
- 68 Opera
- 69 Fox
- 69 Carried on
- 69 North Sea
- 69 sign
- 22 Low die
- 24 Dimaggio
- 25 Perennial plant
- 26 Aboda
- 27 Garden
- 28 Jacob's son
- 29 Remove (nessall)
- 30 Room
- 31 Fitch
- 34 Woe
- 35 Tennis stroke
- 38 Highway
- 41 Theater district
- 44 Time past
- 45 Made plain
- 48 Canary
- 49 Hoast
- 50 Ferber
- 53 Near
- 54 Clearix
- 55 Fuel
- 56 The
- 57 Scene of a miracle
- 58 Goddess of discord
- 59 Trevel
- 60 Protagonist
- 62 Artillery field



WORLD

Nkomo returns home with 'ideas'

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe opposition leader Joshua Nkomo returned home quietly Tuesday after five months of self-exile, saying he has fresh proposals for a political settlement with Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government.

He told a news conference at his Harare home after landing from London that he would be making a statement to parliament Wednesday, during a debate on whether he would be allowed to retain his seat in the house of assembly because of his absence. He refused to give details of his proposals.

"Any plan can only work if people are ready and willing to talk fresh points out, discover the problem, identify various elements that caused it and prescribe a remedy," he said.

"We need a scheme to bring about a permanent solution."

Mr. Nkomo, 66, left Zimbabwe last March during anti-rebel operations by government troops in his home province of Matabeleland which he said had caused hundreds of civilian deaths. He accused Mr. Mugabe, long a rival, of ordering him killed, but the prime minister has denied it.

It was a subdued and in one sense a sobering homecoming for Mr. Nkomo, often called the father of Zimbabwe.

He was detained by customs men at the airport for more than an hour while they subjected him to a body search. Even his shoes were removed and examined in a curtained-off cubicle.

A video recorder, two tape recorders and a radio cassette player were confiscated until he obtained an import licence. Mr. Nkomo said that was routine for any ordinary passenger exceeding his duty-free allowance.

A small group of well-wishers from his ZAPU Party welcomed him with songs and ululations at the airport and again at his house in the Harare suburb of highfield.

Tuesday's event was in contrast with his return in 1980 from two years' exile from the former white-ruled Rhodesia when a quarter of a million people gathered to proclaim their loyalty. There was no evidence of any special security Tuesday.

Mr. Nkomo, looking fit and cheerful, said he used his time in Britain to work out a possible plan to solve Zimbabwe's problems. These revolve chiefly around a revolt in southern Matabeleland Province, his political power base.

Mr. Mugabe has accused ZAPU of fomenting rebellion in order to force Mr. Nkomo into power.

Mr. Nkomo repeated Tuesday he had no idea of who was behind the rebels, who are officially said to have killed at least 100 civilians since he was sacked from the cabinet last year.



NOTHING TO DECLARE: A large number of weapons including 24 shotguns, with hundreds of rounds of ammunition, Kalashnikov magazines and 10.5 kilograms of explosive devices were displayed by French police in Le Havre, northern France, Sunday after they were seized on Irishman Christopher MacDonald, 27, of Dunkirk.

Nkomo faces hard fight to maintain presence

HARARE (R) — Joshua Nkomo, often called the father of Zimbabwe, faced the nation he fought to create fearing for his life and returned home Tuesday to an uncertain future.

After 161 days in self-imposed exile in Britain, he confronts not only a challenge to his place in parliament but the job of knitting together his ZAPU Party, shattered by rebellion in his home province of Matabeleland and government action to counter the insurgency.

But above all 66-year-old Mr. Nkomo must tackle his relationship with Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, his junior aide in the formative years of the black nationalist struggle against white supremacy in what used to be Rhodesia.

Political sources said the government is being urged by ZANU to go ahead with moves to deprive Mr. Nkomo of his seat in parliament and to press ahead with a prosecution of Mr. Nkomo for leaving the country illegally.



Joshua Nkomo

Under the constitution any legislator who misses 21 consecutive sittings of the house can be expelled.

Mr. Nkomo fled Zimbabwe last March 8 saying he believed Mr. Mugabe had ordered him killed. The prime minister has dismissed the allegation, saying his old rival was free to return in safety.

But there is deep distrust between the two, dating from the Rhodesian civil war when they commanded guerrilla armies in theory united against white rule but in practice locked in bitter rivalry for the leadership of the eventual independent Zimbabwe.

Mr. Nkomo enjoyed for less than two years the fruits of the independence he had fought and suffered for since the 1950s.

He fell from grace with a crash in 1982 when large caches of arms were discovered on properties connected with Nkomo and his Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) Party.

Mr. Nkomo heatedly denied any wrongdoing but Mr. Mugabe swept aside the ZAPU leader's protestations of innocence and, having already demoted Mr. Nkomo from his post as home affairs (interior) minister in 1981, sacked him and two top party lieutenants from the cabinet, effectively dismantling the coalition forming Zimbabwe's first independence government.

After that, relations between the two Rhodesian civil war allies steadily deteriorated. There seemed little but dislike and distrust between Mr. Nkomo, the "old bull elephant" of Matabeleland, and Mr. Mugabe, Mr. Nkomo's former press aide who rose to be the first leader of a free Zimbabwe.

Mr. Nkomo, who spent 11 years in jail and seven in exile during white minority rule, was held briefly by police for the first time in independent Zimbabwe in February 1983.

He found himself classified in government eyes along with his old foe Ian Smith as an enemy of the state. Like the former Rhodesian premier and leader of the all-white Republican Front Party, Mr. Nkomo was confined to the country, his passport confiscated and his movements monitored.

"After 30 years of struggling for independence and all the detentions, arrests, imprisonments and exile, I had thought the time had come to rest and enjoy the fruits of our victory," he said at the time.

His defence of his Latin American policies was cheered Monday by U.S. war veterans in New Orleans but he and Mexican President Miguel De La Madrid disagreed openly about Central America at a weekend meeting in La Paz, Mexico.

Mr. Reagan earlier courted Hispanic voters in Florida with essentially the same speech assailing communist "deprivation and tyranny" and pledging the United States to stand by its goal of providing a security shield to protect economic development and progress towards democracy.

The president has acknowledged the importance of the growing Hispanic vote by inviting their representatives to the White House and arranging several speeches to Hispanic groups.

He had a lengthy meeting with Mr. De La Madrid before going to his ranch at Santa Barbara, California, but the two leaders failed to narrow their differences over Central American policy.

The Mexican President criticised Mr. Reagan's moves in the region, saying: "Shows of force in Central America, such as current U.S. naval and military exercises there, threaten to bring on a conflagration."

Reagan starts holiday after drive to woo support for C. American policy

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan begins a three-week holiday Tuesday after visiting the southern United States and Mexico in a campaign-style effort to win wider support for his controversial policy in Central America.

Mr. Reagan has not yet announced if he will seek re-election in 1984, but some White House aides noted that his mix of politics and vacation could be intended to prepare for his campaign for a second term.

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Secretary of State George Shultz rejected this. He said the major problem was "not a show of force but a use of force, primarily coming from Nicaragua, originating in Cuba with Soviet support, designed to intervene in the affairs of neighbouring countries primarily El Salvador."

White House spokesman Larry Speakes played down the dispute, saying two presidents had warm and friendly talks.

"No one expected him (De La Madrid) to walk out and make a statement changing his views... It was not the type of meeting designed to change anyone's ideas," he said.

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Colombo seeks to restore tarnished image abroad

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka, its image as a peaceful paradise island shattered by last month's bloody riots, has launched a drive to attract tourists again.

Officials said there were about 10,000 visitors in the country when ethnic violence flared claiming more than 380 lives and causing widespread destruction.

The tourists besieged airline offices and fled the palm-fringed island as buildings went up in flames and the government imposed a day and night curfew to quell the rioting.

There were no casualties among tourists, officials said.

President Junius Jayewardene said Monday night: "It is too early to assess how it happened and why it happened and on my part I must take a large measure of the blame for the traumatic experience we have all gone through."

During the troubles, Sri Lanka suspended all charter flights bringing tourists and advised diplomatic missions and tourist offices abroad not to encourage visitors to come to the island.

Government spokesman Douglas Liyanage said 1,000 tourists had arrived on scheduled flights during the past three days.

"It is a hopeful sign," Mr. Liyanage said. "But it is nothing like the figure of 33,000 tourist arrivals in August last year."

The tourist board has arranged grand receptions at the airport for charter groups arriving from next Tuesday. They will be received by sari-clad tourist board hostesses with garlands and bouquets of exotic flowers, trumpeting elephants and local drummers.

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El Salvador denies report of army deal

SAN SALVADOR (R) — El Salvador's defence minister has denied reports of a military cooperation agreement under which neighbouring Guatemala would train Salvadoran soldiers in exchange for arms.

Gen. Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova told Reuters Monday night there was currently no military assistance accord between the two countries.

El Salvador, caught in a bitter, 3½-year old civil war, could not anyway deliver arms needed for its own struggle, Gen. Vides Casanova remarked.

"Maybe in the future, six months or a year from now, they could help us train troops," he said. "But training would never be in exchange for other things. It would be a collaboration between two armed forces helping each other."

Informed sources in both countries had earlier told Reuters that Guatemala, also fighting leftist guerrillas, offered counter-insurgency training to the Salvadoran army.

Bishops hope papal visit will encourage Catholics

LOURDES, France (R) — France's bishops hope the pilgrimage which Pope John Paul II completed to the Pyrenean holy town of Lourdes Monday will arrest a decline in active French Catholics, church sources said.

Many of the Pope's religious and political positions are more conservative than those of French church leaders but in a first assessment of the outcome of the pontiff's two-day visit to the shrines of the Virgin Mary here, the sources were confident the trip had been a success.

Before leaving for Rome after 11 speeches and homilies spread over 30 hours, the Pope showed he was in no doubt about the visit.

"I am filled with joy to have at last been able to add Lourdes to the chain of Marian sanctuaries that I have been able to visit throughout the world in order to pray there with my fellow Christians," he said in a parting message.

During the visit — his second to France, which regards itself as the church's elder daughter — he stressed familiar themes of duty and obedience.

He also delivered a fierce condemnation of the repression the Catholic Church suffers in East Europe.

Church officials said the attack was one of the strongest the Pope has delivered against the treatment of the church in some East-bloc countries.

They noted that he chose to deliver it at a shrine of the Marian cult, to which his own Polish people are known to be particularly devoted.

The Pope underlined his attachment to the Virgin by suggesting that this holy year should also be recognised as the 2,000th anniversary of her birth.

He said: "It is a question of a fundamental devotion in my life and I would like to enrich the church into prayer, Marian prayer."

Only 80,000 people came to Lourdes on Sunday to greet the Pope, fewer than half the number hoped for. Church sources said they had probably been deterred by light security and the inaccessibility of the town.

But at least 200,000 turned out Monday for an open air mass in a meadow close to the grotto where the Pope prayed twice. Church officials estimated even more people were present.

Slain correspondent laid to rest

NEW DELHI (R) — Five days after his death in a minefield while reporting the Gulf War, Reuter correspondent Najm al-Hassan was buried Tuesday near his New Delhi home.

Reuters Middle East editor Francois Durieux escorted the body home from Iran, where Mr. Hassan, a 37-year-old Indian, was killed while visiting territory recently recaptured from Iraq.

From the airport the body was taken to Mr. Hassan's home to be washed according to Shia Muslim ritual and wrapped in a seamless white shroud. Mr. Hassan's widow Barbara placed a wreath on the body before it was borne on a litter for burial by his colleagues and friends.

Iranian charge d'affaires A.M. Bidarmaghiz presented condolences on behalf of his government. The several hundred mourners included many prominent Indian journalists, foreign correspondents and Members of Parliament.

Filipino politician raps expensive helicopter deal

MANILA (R) — An opposition politician Tuesday alleged possible irregularities in the Philippine government's \$63 million purchase of what he said was the world's most expensive helicopter.

Salvador Laurel told the national assembly it should delay buying 19 Sikorsky helicopters and demanded that the defence ministry reveal how the sale was negotiated.

It was arranged by former U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who visited Manila last May. Press reports said the government agreed to buy 17 Sikorsky S-76 helicopters and two UH-60A Black Hawks. They described the S-76 as essentially a

luxury civilian helicopter unsuitable for the Philippine air force. Assemblyman Laurel said each S-76 cost \$3 million and the Black Hawk, a combat assault helicopter, \$6.2 million.

"Whatever happened to the basic objection to the Sikorsky S-76 as being too expensive and unsuitable... by what mysterious logic was this formidable objection overcome?" Mr. Laurel asked.

Mr. Laurel said no other air force in the world used the S-76: "So why did the Philippines decide to buy it?"

Mr. Laurel also raised questions on how Mr. Haig concluded the deal.

U.S.-Soviet diplomatic row stalemated

WASHINGTON (R) — The senior Soviet official in Washington called at the State Department Monday and said later there had been no progress in setting a U.S.-Soviet dispute over a diplomat's son who might want to defect.

Oleg Solokov, the Soviet charge d'affaires, said the Soviet Union would continue to deny a U.S. official request to interview Andrei Berezhkov, the 16-year-old son of embassy first secretary Valentin Berezhkov.

"We insist and will continue to insist on an unhindered departure of Andrei Berezhkov and his family to the Soviet Union from the United States without any prior interviewing by anybody from the United States authorities," Mr. Solokov said.

He said the Soviet position was one of principle. He added there had been no progress on resolving the U.S.-Soviet dispute.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Love in Russia costs Briton his job

LONDON (R) — A British electrician found love in Moscow but eventually it cost him his job. Raymond Ninnis, 35, who had a two-month whirlwind romance with a 28-year-old interpreter he met while installing printing machines, later defied his firm's order not to return to see her, an employment tribunal was told Monday. Ninnis pled for the girl, who had accepted his proposal of marriage, and when he finished a contract in Nigeria he flew directly to Moscow instead of returning home. The tribunal ruled that the company had dismissed Ninnis fairly from his £300 (\$450) a week job. Ninnis told reporters Monday night his girlfriend wanted to live in Moscow and he planned to marry her there in six months.

Nicaragua reports clashes with rebels

MANAGUA (R) — Twenty right-wing rebels were killed in heavy fighting in the mountainous northern Jinotega province of Nicaragua, a defence ministry communiqué said Monday night. The clashes with the U.S.-backed rebels occurred just outside the town of San Rafael del Norte. One government soldier was wounded. In neighbouring Nueva Segovia Province, six rebels were killed on Sunday night, the communiqué said. In a separate incident halfway down Nicaragua's 400-kilometre Atlantic coast, three Nicaraguan soldiers were killed on Sunday in an ambush near Sandy Bay Sipri.

Jewellers uncover computer thefts

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A South African jewellery firm said Monday it had uncovered a string of computer-based thefts worth some \$3.5 million, apparently the work of insiders collaborating with an international gang. Sterns Diamond Organisation, which has more than 70 shops throughout the country, told its shareholders that the scale of the thefts, which went on steadily for two years, were only discovered recently when auditors drew up the annual accounts. The thefts had gone undetected because of fake entries in the group's computer records.

China moves to join atomic agency

PEKING (R) — Progress has been made towards China joining the 111-member International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian said Tuesday after talks in Peking with IAEA chief Hans Blix. The New China News Agency (NCNA) quoted Mr. Wu as saying: "Through the concerted efforts of both participants all questions concerning China's joining the agency would be settled." Peking plans to cooperate more intensively in the international nuclear field in future following initial talks on building atomic power stations, he added.

Quebec's suicide rate alarming

MONTREAL (R) — Quebec's suicide rate has almost doubled in ten years and officials Monday began an inquiry into why the French-speaking province has one of the highest suicide rates in the industrialised world. Canada's overall suicide rate has been dropping. But in Quebec the rate is running at 194 suicides per 100,000 inhabitants. Last year, there were almost 1,200 suicides in Quebec compared with 600 in 1972. For young Quebecois in the 15-30 age bracket, suicide has become the second leading cause of death after motor accidents.

Tough sheep teach dogs a lesson

CHERTON, England (R) — Kennel owner Penny Rose has recruited what she calls a "heavy mob" of sheep to cure her dogs of sheep-worrying. She said two sheep named Lambchop and Muttonstew lead a hard-bitten gang with an and-dog outlook. "Usually just one encounter with the mob is all a dog needs to be cured of sheep-worrying for ever," she told reporters in this Devon village.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1** — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠762 ♣K9862 ♢6 ♣543
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South
 1 ♣ Dble ?
 What do you bid now?
- Q.2** — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AK73 ♣832 ♢953 ♣742
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
 3 ♣ Pass ?
 What action do you take?
- Q.3** — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠AQ63 ♣J982 ♢85 ♣742
 The bidding has proceeded:
 West North East South
 1 ♣ 2 ♣ Pass ?
 What action do you take?
- Q.4** — East-West, vulnerable, as South you hold:
- Q.5** — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠J86 ♣954 ♢K632 ♣Q74
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 Pass 1 ♣ Dble Pass
 1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass ?
 What action do you take?
- Q.6** — As South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠AJ92 ♣43 ♢AKQ5 ♣KQ7
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass
 4 ♣ Pass 4 NT Pass
 5 ♣ Pass 5 ♣ Pass ?
 What action do you take?